March 28 1977

THE TIMES

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Facts of life the Tories have not yet learnt, page 17

63 feared dead as jumbo jets collide on Tenerife runway

...n between two jumbo jets at Tenerife airport in the ...ands yesterday evening was apparently the world's ...ation disaster. Unconfirmed reports four hours ...rash put the death toll at 563 dead, with 49 injured, ...hem critically. It appeared that a Pan Am Boeing ...ed into a KLM 747 as the Dutch aircraft was preparing for takeoff with full fuel tanks, and both jets exploded. Tenerife airport was at saturation point because Las Palmas airport on the neighbouring island of Grand Canary had been closed by a bomb planted by a separatist organization. Both the jumbo jets had been diverted from Las Palmas.

...rld's worst air ...aster after ...mb diversion

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...rch 27
...st bomb explosion ...ry Islands indirectly ...the worst air disas... when two jumbo ...d. ...h toll was tonight ...be 563, with 49 ...ne of them critically. ...two jets, diverted ...port on the island of ...ary near by because ...explosion there, col... ground level with ...t which was taking ...the Los Rodeos air... island of Tenerife. ...neither of the big ...d have been using ...if the bomb had not ...earlier in Las Palmas. ...of that explosion, ...to be the work of ...sland separatists, indi... at least five people ...ured there.

...news agencies ...that one of the Boeing ...using the wrong run... ...h aircraft exploded on ...Most of those who died ...ed in the blast or in ...e fire which followed. ...m the horror were ...passengers on board ...American World Air... ...t coming from Los ...via New York and ...r Madagascar, and 225 ...rs and 14 crew on ...e KLM jumbo which ...ng down the runway ...ff.

...programmes in the ...Islands were inter... ...epeatedly with a call ...military and civilian doctors and nurses in the islands to report as soon as possible to the scene of the disaster. Police closed all roads leading to the airport except for authorized traffic.

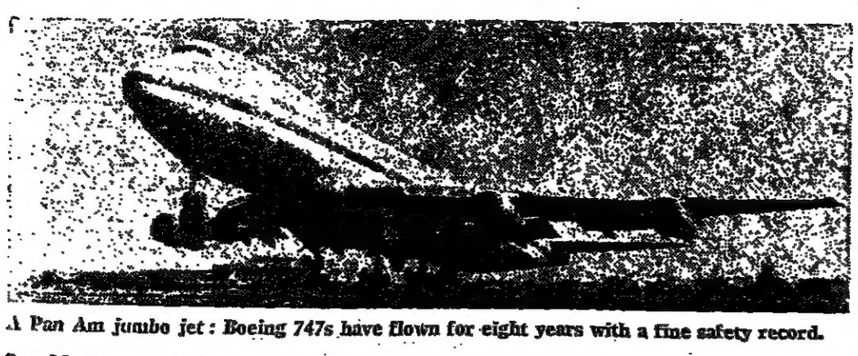
Los Rodeos airport, a windswept narrow landing field nestled between steep mountains and often covered by mist, has long been known to commercial pilots as a difficult one.

The extremist bomb blast on the neighbouring island of Grand Canary obliged authorities to divert all air traffic from Las Palmas airport to Los Rodeos. As a result the normal Sunday traffic at Los Rodeos was doubled, with about 400 landings and takeoffs. Airport sources said the volume of air traffic over Tenerife had reached saturation point.

To complicate the position further, Spanish air controllers are still working to rule in a labour dispute which began last summer.

The bomb was set in Las Palmas airport, police suspect, by the Movement for the Independence and Autonomy of the Canaries Achipeligo, a far left organization led by a Spaniard named Señor Antonio Cubillo. He broadcasts half an hour a day from the Algerian national radio a programme beamed towards the islands, calling itself "The Voice of the Free Canaries".

Only last month police announced a roundup which they claimed had brought in most of the activists of this political extremists organization.



A Pan Am jumbo jet: Boeing 747s have flown for eight years with a fine safety record.

Sue Masterman writes from The Hague: The KLM version of the disaster was given tonight by an airline spokesman, who said that the Dutch aircraft was taking off when, just before it left the runway, the Pan Am 747—which was touching down—cut across its rail. "Visibility was very poor, but the accident is entirely inexplicable," KLM said.

The Dutch charter flight, KL 4805 from Amsterdam to Las Palmas, was carrying 229 passengers and 15 crew. The aircraft, the Boeing 747 De Rijn, was taking off after waiting three and a half hours at Tenerife. All passengers were booked for a Canary Island holiday through Holland international, one of the company's largest tour operators.

Within minutes of the news reaching Holland, crisis centres had been set up by KLM and Holland International to answer inquiries from the relatives of passengers and crew. Dutch radio and TV cancelled their less serious programmes, switching to classical music and broadcasting regular news bulletins.

Peter Strafford writes from New York: Pan Am said that its 747 was crossing the runway at the Santa Cruz airport when it was hit by the KLM jet.

Of the 364 passengers on the Pan Am flight, 275 had joined in Los Angeles and the others in New York when it stopped here.

Our Air Correspondent writes: This was the disaster which the world airline industry had feared ever since the era of the jumbo jets began in 1969.

It was Pan American which made the new generation of wide-bodied airliners possible by placing the first big order for the Boeing 747. Since then the jumbo has been joined by three other types of airliner capable of carrying mass passenger loads.

But the 747 is still the biggest. Most airlines operate it with about 350 seats, but a version on the internal routes in Japan carries 500.

Since entering service eight years ago the 747 has carried millions of people safely and, up to yesterday, had an extremely good safety record.

Although more than 300 of them are flying, there has been only one serious accident, when a Lufthansa 747 crashed on takeoff from Nairobi because the flaps were not properly extended. This crash, in November, 1974, cost 59 lives.

Pilots like the 747 as a faultless airliner to fly, in spite of its size. Most passengers like it for the space in its huge cabin and upstairs deck approached by a spiral staircase.

The collision in the Canary Islands is not likely to halt the trend among airlines to replace their fleets of older and smaller jets with jumbos and other wide-bodied airliners. These new types give them the economies which they need to keep costs down, and they also have quiet engines which comply with stricter noise laws being introduced at airports all over the world.

The trend will be towards even bigger jumbos; there are plans for aircraft carrying up to 1,000 passengers already on the drawing board. The jumbo has proved itself. What is now needed are better air traffic control procedures to keep these huge airliners apart.

In the world's worst air disaster before yesterday, 345 people were killed in 1974 when a Turkish Airlines DC 10 airbus crashed outside Paris after its control cables were cut in a decompression explosion after a cargo door blew out.

Santa Cruz de Tenerife was the scene of a crash which caused 155 deaths in December, 1972. Then a Spanish Spantax Convair-Coronado came down in flames shortly after takeoff.

The length of the single runway at Tenerife's Los Rodeos airport is 3,400 metres and is frequently used by jumbo jets, according to a KLM spokesman in Madrid.

Mr Vance hopeful of Moscow progress

From Our Correspondent
Moscow, March 27

Cautious optimism on prospects for his Moscow talks was voiced by Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, at a press conference here this morning.

He described his welcome by Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, as "most cordial". During the drive from the airport last night they had had a good discussion.

A sharply critical *Pravda* editorial yesterday had made no direct reference to the Vance visit. Instead it had called for the completion and signing of a new Soviet-American agreement on strategic arms limitation, and for progress towards a mutual reduction of arms. A measure of agreement, *Pravda* said, had been reached in Vladivostok in 1974 but further progress had been delayed by the passive attitude of President Ford's Administration. President Carter's Administration, in its two months in office, had so far taken no constructive steps.

Asked for comment on this charge, Mr Vance said there was no point raking up the past and that he was looking towards the future. He thought the Administration for the past two months had been working diligently to prepare for the talks, "and we are now prepared and ready for discussion".

The proposals he intended making were sound, and he hoped they could serve as the framework for a new agreement. He was confident that both sides wanted real progress towards arms control.

Some headway had been made in the first round of the strategic arms limitation talks (Salt), and at Vladivostok. The objective now was to move rapidly forwards and make deep cuts in the respective numbers of strategic weapons.

The talks are due to start tomorrow morning, and while it is assumed that Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, will play an active part, Mr Vance said he did not know who besides Mr Gromyko, would be present on the Soviet side.

He planned to set out the American proposals in his opening remarks and to suggest immediate discussion of them. But if the other side wanted to postpone such a discussion to allow time for consideration, that would also suit the Americans.

The present plan was for the talks to last three days and for the American delegation to leave on Thursday, but the Secretary of State said he was prepared to stay an extra day or as long as was necessary to make progress.

The subject of trade would also be raised at the opening meeting, Mr Vance said. Asked about the chances of Congress rescinding the Jackson amendment linking the two countries' trade agreement with Soviet concessions on Jewish emigration, he replied that it would be difficult at present.

The *Pravda* editorial had alleged that the Democrats had not only failed to implement their promise to promote peaceful relations with the Soviet Union, but had also engaged in "impermissible attempts" to interfere in the internal affairs of the Soviet Union. Only last week, it said, the White House had called for the construction of extra radio transmitters for "such centres of psychological warfare as Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty."

Asked to comment on this, Mr Vance answered that other countries, including the Soviet Union, spent considerably more than the United States on radio propaganda; then, correcting himself with a smile, he added: "I mean radio information."

He hoped the human rights issue would not complicate the Salt negotiations. He would not raise this topic in the talks, but would discuss it if it were brought up by the Russians. He had rejected requests from Soviet dissidents to see him, as his time would be occupied entirely with the official negotiations.

David Cross writes from Brussels: Stopping off briefly here to consult his Nato partners on this week's talks in Moscow, Mr Vance said he expected heated exchanges over President Carter's gestures on behalf of Soviet dissidents, but despite the differences over civil rights he expected the Russians to be businesslike on points of substance.

Photograph, page 5
Leading article, page 13

Tax cuts of more than £1,500m if unions accept new pay curb

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Taxation changes reducing the burden on personal incomes by at least £1,500m with the promise possibly of more to come if there is a satisfactory agreement with the unions on the next phase of wages policy, are expected from the Chancellor, Mr Healey, when he presents his Budget to the Commons tomorrow.

Adjustments in the tax bands to restore incentives to middle management and skilled workers, who are now complaining about the squeezing of differentials, and a big uprating of personal allowances to take low-paid workers outside the tax bracket, have been foreshadowed by the Chancellor and by Mr Callaghan.

But Mrs Thatcher and the Shadow Cabinet are already warning the public, and particularly the electors at the Stechford by-election, that the Chancellor may try to give the impression that he is making "concessions" in a "giveaway" Budget when in fact he will hardly be able to restore the real value of tax allowances to what they were a year ago.

Thousands of "postcards" have been produced by Conservative Central Office, with imitation postage stamps bearing the face of Mr Healey franked with a bold over-print stating "Budget Warning." They are addressed "To the Highest Income Tax Payers in the Western World, Britain" and they state: "Beware the Budget Promises: Keep this for Budget Day."

Chancellor Healey says income tax is 'dangerously high' and promises reductions in his March Budget. But to compensate for increased prices since the last Conservative Budget he needs to lop £5,000 off income tax (£200 per taxpayer), for example by raising single person's allowance from £738 to £1,140 and married allowance from £1,085 to £1,485. Even to take account of inflation in the past 12 months would mean income tax cuts of at least £1,500m.

"Don't be misled! Check the Chancellor on Budget Day! See if his actions match his promises."

Mr Healey, of course, has made no firm promises. He and Mr Callaghan may have given hints, but taxpayers have to wait for the outcome. A month or two before his 1976 spring Budget Mr Healey dropped some unmistakable hints about helping people in middle management, but he did nothing effective.

Mr Callaghan on television a week ago, said: "Yes, there will be, I trust, some rewards for middle management. Yes, there will be some recognition of the burden of taxation. Part of the cuts in public expenditure that we have made at great pain and cost will enable him (the Chancellor) to do that."

In another broadcast Mr Healey indicated that he hoped to help skilled workers, whose differentials are being squeezed, through tax adjustments.

It is widely expected that Mr Healey, taking note of representations from the Liberal Party and others, will make a move towards transferring some of the burden from direct taxation to indirect. But he will have to bear in mind the likely impact on his chances of getting a phase three pay agreement with the unions if he changes value-added tax.

An increase in VAT and general excise duties would bring in a substantial amount of revenue that could be used later if the Chancellor needed to make further tax adjustments to placate the unions. Those could be made, as last year, when the Finance Bill got to the committee stage.

Mr Pardoe, the Liberal economic spokesman, made clear in the talks leading to last week's agreement with the Government that his party would be looking for a sign that the Government is prepared to move away from high direct taxation and put more weight on consumption taxes.

Mr Pardoe was asked on the BBC radio programme, *The World This Weekend*, yesterday about the amount that might be given in the next wage round. "I have taken a very tough

Continued on page 2, col 7

Mr Prentice to fight as an independent in Newham

By Our Political Staff

Mr Reg Prentice, the former Minister for Overseas Development, who has been disowned by his left-wing dominated local Labour party, announced yesterday that he would stand for Parliament in the constituency, Newham, North East, as a Democratic Labour candidate, at the next general election.

He said his announcement had been delayed in deference to the views of "my good friends" in the local party who had been trying to win it back to the path of moderation and good sense. Their efforts had deserved success.

"They control four out of the nine ward parties, but this has not been quite sufficient to dislodge the extreme left-wing faction which runs the constituency party", he said. "A formal announcement could not reasonably be postponed. The newly elected general management committee still has a left-wing majority and has been given permission by the national executive to choose a candidate."

Meanwhile, events had given a reminder that a general election could occur at short notice and his constituents were entitled to know where he stood. He would contest the election on the principles that he had followed for many years.

"I am a social democrat who believes in reform, not revolution; in national unity, not class war; in the rule of law, not in direct action by militant groups; and in a mixed economy rather than total nationalization", he said.

His appeal would be to people of all parties who believed in democracy; he was sure that thousands of Conservatives, Liberals and independents would recognize that the issues cut across all party boundaries.

...as Ashford: searched

...mes' reporter ...d after ...saka arrest

...aka, March 27.—Nicholas ...d, the South Africa ...pondent of *The Times*, ...was detained at Lusaka ...t on Friday, was released ...the central police station ...at noon on Saturday.

...rnalists who arrived with ...shford, who had travelled ...Dar es Salaam to cover ...isit by Mr Podgorny, the ...President, said he was ...ed at the airport by ...ian officials. They said ...were looking for unspeci... ...objects they felt he might ...brought with him from ...nia.

Stephen Miles, the British Commissioner, requested ...shford's release as soon ...met Mr Siteke Mwale, the ...gn Minister, at Lusaka ...rt, where both men were ...ing the arrival of Mr ...orny.—Reuter.

Podgorny visit, page 5

Strikers will picket four more hospitals in Surrey today

Health authorities are expected today to seek a High Court injunction to restrain pickets from stopping the supply of essential drugs to five Surrey hospitals.

Yesterday pickets at Epsom said they would be willing to allow through essential supplies such as drugs, blood, food and bed linen in return for assurances that all staff canteens would be closed and that no more volunteers' supply convoys would try to break picket lines.

A union official said that domestics and other ancillary staff from at least four other Surrey hospitals would join the strike today. Mr Jack Jones, the transport union leader, may be asked to intervene.

The strike, by hospital members of the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU), enters its eighth day today. Dissatisfaction over new duty rota and the dismissal of 30 porters for alleged breach of contract led to the dispute which now involves more than 60 strikers.

The hospitals involved are The Manor, at Epsom, catering for between 800 and 900 mentally handicapped patients; West Park, Epsom, which has 1,100 mentally ill patients; Epsom District Hospital, a 400-bed general hospital; the Schiff Hospital at Cobham, a post-operative and geriatric unit with 60 convalescent beds and 16 beds for geriatrics; and Cuddington Hospital, Banstead, a geriatric unit with 140 beds.

After discussions between local officials and union members, pickets allowed drugs, blood and oxygen into the Epsom District Hospital on Saturday, but food and oil supplies will soon be needed.

Several more people rode on horseback through picket lines yesterday to deliver food supplies to The Manor Hospital. On Saturday five women rode on horseback through the picket outside the Schiff Hospital.

They were led by Miss Sue Forster, aged 22, a partner in the restaurant at the Silvermere Golf and Equestrian Club at Cobham. Miss Forster, who did not know yesterday's riders, said she took her action on Saturday because she was disgusted with the picketing and thought that people "usually jump out of the way of horses".

She added: "They tried to stop us, but unsuccessfully. One man threw down a stick in front of the horses and they all started clapping but we rode straight through."

Officials for the hospitals spoke of the "tremendous" public support. A Devon chef offered to use his holiday to help to cook.

Mr Brian Winstanley, administrator at The Manor Hospital, said he was concerned about hygiene. "Areas like toilets and ward kitchens are getting a service but obviously not a totally adequate service. They require intensive cleaning in a hospital of this type."

At Schiff Hospital heating has been turned down because oil is running short and may last only two more days. Stocks of food are also low, but visitors and staff are smuggling in supplies.

Outside the hospital gates a shop steward, Mr William Harper, said: "An oil delivery is due any day now, but we will not let it through. We do not stop drugs but if the oil lorry or any other supply lorry comes through, we will lie down in the road to stop it.

"We are sympathetic about the patients but it is about time management woke up and saw sense over the whole issue."

Mr Jones, TGWU general secretary, may be called in to try to settle the dispute. He is due to meet Mr Mick Martin, the union's national secretary for the public services sector, today to discuss the issue.

Mr Maurice Smith, Epsom branch secretary of the TGWU, said yesterday that domestics and other ancillary staff in at least four other Surrey hospitals would strike from today and picket their hospitals.

The newly involved hospitals are Queen Mary Hospital for Children at Carshalton, Longrove Psychiatric Hospital at Epsom, The Royal Marsden at Sutton and the Ellesmere at Walton-on-Thames.

"We will not be stopping the essential supplies of drugs, but our members in those hospitals are joining us in the hope that we can bring an end to the row", Mr Smith said.

"We also want to see Mr David Ennals [Secretary of State for Social Services] send a representative to look into the authorities who run the mid-Surrey health district. We hope this new action will bring pressure on him to do so. We know he is watching the situation."

Sit-in by builders threatens holidays

From Our Correspondent
Rhyll

Two hundred building workers occupied the main Pontin's holiday camp at Prestatyn, North Wales, last night, two weeks before Easter weekend, for which the camp is heavily booked.

They are members of the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians (Ucatt), and were employed in the construction of the company's new camp at Tower Beach, near by. In January they were dismissed for alleged low productivity and a month-long sit-in followed. That was ended by a High Court injunction two weeks ago.

Last night the workers said that only security guards would be allowed through the gates at the occupied camp. No holidaymakers would be admitted. Nor would the camp manager and his staff.

Last month a regional conciliation panel ordered an immediate return to work and the withdrawal of the dismissal notices. "We want that decision implemented", Mr Barry Scragg, the Ucatt site convener, said. "We have hung about now for 10 weeks without pay and without dole. We are dealing with a stubborn man in Fred Pontin."

Pontin's said last night that the company would probably take legal action to remove the men.

...r Ram takes ...efence post ...Desai Cabinet

...agjivan Ram, head of India's Con... for Democracy party, has been ...the defence portfolio in Mr ...i's new Janata government. This ...announced after an intense poli... weekend in Delhi when Mr Ram, ...er of the country's underprivileged, ...rst withdrew from the Cabinet list

Page 6

...pc support Scots

...opinion poll published in *The ...tsman* today shows that 70 per cent ...people in England, Wales and Scot... believe Scotland should have ...e say in its own affairs. Only 41 ...cent want the Government to con... ...e with the devolution Bill

Scottish Tories, page 3

...hodesia poll call

...hop Abel Muzorewa has called on ...tain to organize a referendum of ...Rhodesians, including whites, to ...oose a national leader to take over ...m Mr Smith

Page 5

Labour left-wingers want NEC meeting

Labour Party left-wingers hope to be able to call a special meeting of the national executive committee to review the Government's agreement with the Liberals. Mr Eric Heffer, MP, said that 12 signatures of NEC members of the 15 necessary for such a meeting had been obtained

Page 2

Nuclear plant hope

Culham, Oxfordshire, is expected to be chosen for the location of a £120m laboratory for the Joint European Torus (Jet) experiment to do research into the almost limitless source of energy available from a new type of nuclear fusion reactor

Page 4

No new England caps

There will be no new England caps for the World Cup qualifying match against Luxembourg on Wednesday

Norman Fox, page 8

EEC plans fund to stabilize prices

EEC leaders agreed at their Rome meeting on the need for a fund to finance butter stocks designed to stabilize commodity prices. They also agreed to study an extension of a system offering producers of raw materials compensation to offset trade fluctuations

Page 4

90 drug arrests

A total of 90 people were arrested in raids throughout Britain by 800 policemen intended to break a ring said to be making the drug LSD. Thirty were being questioned at Swindon; the rest were bailed

Page 2

Health inquiry: There is to be a government inquiry into why unskilled workers have poorer health than the professional classes 4

Rawalpindi: Seven die as Pakistan police open fire on demonstrators in various parts of the country 6

China restores credentials to Beethoven

Peking, March 27.—Beethoven was "rehabilitated" at a concert here last night on the 150th anniversary of his death. Thunderous applause greeted a performance of his symphony No 5.

It was the first time one of his works had been performed in China since they were banned by the old radical leaders in 1974.

At that time, Beethoven had been attacked by the official Chinese press as a "bourgeois" whose compositions were "misleading" and full of "prejudice".

The "rehabilitation" was undoubtedly made possible by the arrest last October of Mao Tse-tung's widow, Chiang Ching, and her accomplices in the "gang of four".

Last night's concert was given at the Palace of the Nationalities.—Agence France-Presse.

HOME NEWS

Labour left hoping to call NEC meeting on deal with Liberals

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

While the Liberals continue to get useful publicity out of their agreement with Mr Callaghan to help to keep Labour in office, left-wingers in the Labour Party are pursuing their efforts to call a special meeting of the national executive committee to review the Cabinet's decision.

Mr Eric Heffer, who is one of those trying to get the 15 signatures of NEC members that are necessary to requisition a special meeting, said last night that 12 had been obtained. He seemed hopeful of getting another three, explaining that it had been impossible so far to get in touch with some of the executive members who might be sympathetic.

He confirmed, however, that Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, who was one of the strongest opponents of the agreement in Cabinet, had declined to give his signature.

Mr Heffer said that he and many other Labour MPs believed the Government had gone too far by entering into a formal pact or agreement with the Liberals. He did not think it would last very long, perhaps not beyond the end of the year.

"The Government could have stood absolutely firm", he said. "They could have had some kind of arrangement, each understanding the other party's point of view. We have had to do that on numerous occasions, but I do not think it was right to enter into a formal agreement. It is a movement towards a coalition which could be very dangerous for the Labour Party."

He did not go along with the interpretation of Mr Alex Fletcher, MP for Edinburgh, North, and a Conservative spokesman on Scottish affairs, that Mr Callaghan would call a general election in September, fearing a showdown at the next Labour Party conference over the Liberal-Labour agreement.

"Labour Party conference issues can be determined by the block vote", Mr Heffer said. "Remember that in the Bevanite days and earlier we have had block votes from the unions agreeing with such things as German rearmament .... If the unions do not come out against the agreement, then the possibility is that it would continue, but I think the rank and file, certainly the membership of the constituency parties, will be very strongly opposed to it."

He had heard Mr Pardoe, the Liberal spokesman on economic affairs, suggesting that he should be involved with the Government in discussions with the unions over the next stage of the pay policy. The Liberals seemed to want to have a hand in the formulation of every kind of policy.

He thought that if the Liberals were brought into the pay talks it might quickly turn the unions against them and the Government's agreement.

Mr Fletcher, speaking in Glasgow on Saturday, forecast that polling day would be on September 29. "The six months' general election campaign started last Thursday, because ministers know that they dare not face the Labour Party conference, due to start on October 3, while their sacred socialism is being diluted by Liberal MPs" he said.

"Labour conference delegates are rude enough to Labour ministers, but can you imagine the language of the fraternal greetings to David Steel, Mr Callaghan's poodle, John Pardoe, the Chancellor's fag, and to Cyril Smith and Clement Freud?

"You can be sure that one deal Mr Callaghan did not disclose yesterday was a promise to his masters, the TUC, that the pact with the Liberal MPs would be turn up just before the TUC conference, which starts on September 3 and will be the only 'party' conference that will be allowed to take place this year."

By a curious turn of events, the Liberals and the left-wing members of the *Tribune* group will find common cause in the House of Commons this evening. Mr Emlyn Hooson, the Liberal defence spokesman, said last night that Liberal MPs would either vote against the Government motion taking note of the defence estimates or abstain.

The *Tribune* group MPs will meet today to decide their tactics; if they get an opportunity, they will vote for their own amendment, which calls for a reduction in defence spending and the transfer of productive capacity from arms to other kinds of production.

If that is not called, as seems likely, they will probably vote against the Government motion, which has been carefully phrased to try to win the support of the whole parliamentary party.

Mr Steel will announce his new "shadow administration" today.

David Wood, page 13

The Crypt restaurant, Dover, after yesterday's fire in which six people died.

Six die in fire at restaurant

Six people, including a fireman who was trapped when a ceiling crashed, died yesterday in a fire at the Crypt restaurant in Dover. The dead included the wife of the manager and three children. An unidentified girl of about 20 was the sixth victim.

Four other firemen were taken to Canterbury hospital. Three were still being detained last night.

The restaurant, in Bench Street, is in a four-storey Victorian building with flats above. The fire was discovered about 3 am.

Mr Alexander Clay, the licensee, told firemen his wife Marion, aged 32, and children, Charlotte, aged 18 months, and Shane, aged 6 were trapped.

Their bodies were brought out with those of a girl aged about 20 who worked in the bars and Junisia Ashton, aged five, of Acton, London, the grandchild of Mrs Phyllis Conlon. They had been staying with the Clays. Mrs Conlon, of Maldon Road, Acton, was in a satisfactory condition last night.

More than 70 firemen fought the blaze. A crew of firemen from Folkestone were inside the building when a ceiling crashed down trapping several of them. It was here that Leading Fireman John Sharp, aged 31, a married man with two children, of Canterbury, received the injuries from which he died. Four other firemen from the team were hurt but they refused to go to hospital until their colleague was brought from the building.

NUS leader condemns the great debate

From a Staff Reporter
Blackpool

The education debate started by Mr Callaghan and the Government represented a frontal assault on ideas for which the National Union of Students and the Labour movement had long struggled, Mr Charles Clarke, the retiring NUS president, said last night in his opening address to the union's spring conference in Blackpool.

He said the debate was an attempt to devalue education, placing it "still more strictly within the industrial straitjacket which now dominates our life". To repel the attack was the union's main priority.

"We must stake out our right to demand that the education we receive responds both to our own needs as students who are widening our experience and to the broadest needs of society as a whole. Our education must not be about fitting the students we represent into convenient slots which industry lays down."

He called on the conference, and the student movement, to fight for democracy at every level in pursuing their struggle against college closures, higher fees, inadequate grants, spending cuts and attempts to cut off social security benefits students and unemployed.

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education, has told the National Union of Students that she intends to seek legislation allowing her to extend the number of courses subject to a mandatory local authority grant. Mr Clarke said Mrs Williams had also accepted that in most cases the money should go to students directly through the grants system.

90 people are arrested in raids by 800 policemen

By Stewart Tendler

Thirty people were still being questioned last night by police at Swindon, Wiltshire, after a series of raids by 800 officers throughout Britain to break a ring alleged to be involved in making and exporting the drug LSD.

The operation, which began early on Saturday morning, had been planned for several months as a result of investigations in Wiltshire which extended farther into the west country. A task force of senior police officers was formed from a number of forces and inquiries were made of police and drug enforcement agencies in the United States.

In the past year American authorities have found that prevention of distribution of ergotamine tartrate, the raw material for LSD, has led to the chemical being smuggled from Europe. A number of other countries have expressed concern about an increase in availability of the drug.

Yesterday police at Swindon, which was made the headquarters of the operation under Det Chief Supt Dennis Greenslade, head of No 7 regional crime squad, could not comment on the size of the alleged ring or its overseas connexions.

Planning of the raids was kept secret, although 16 forces and six regional crime squads were involved. They concentrated their efforts in the West Country, the Midlands, Wales, Hertfordshire, Hampshire, Glasgow and London.

A total of 90 people were arrested and taken to Swindon.

Sixty of those arrested were freed on police bail to return for further questioning later. None of the 90 had been charged last night.

The ring is alleged to have been involved not only in exporting but also in distributing the drug in Britain, where a single dose of LSD sells for between 50p and £2.

Move to improve morale of Ulster peace movement

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

An attempt to boot flagging public interest and confidence in the seven-month-old Northern Ireland peace movement will be made this week when 250 supporters from Ulster and Europe gather for their first convention.

At the three-day convention, which will open in a closely guarded hotel in co Fermanagh on Friday night, the members will try to sort out their problems and agree on a formal constitution to link the 150 peace groups throughout Northern Ireland.

After the initial emotional impact of the symbolic public rallies, the movement has been running into increasing difficulties in recent months.

Since the last big demonstration on the banks of the Boyne last December, the movement has attracted little favourable publicity in Ulster.

One main cause of dissatisfaction has been the number of foreign trips undertaken by its leaders. There has also been a growing wave of protest about the alleged lack of democracy and organization inside it and of the attitude of some of its leaders to the Roman Catholic hierarchy, the security forces and the press and broadcasting.

Other problems have arisen over the large sum of money collected during the early heady days of the movement, mostly in Norway and West Germany. This now exceeds £700,000, but administrative and tax reasons have meant that very little has yet been spent in Ulster. More than half is still in foreign banks.

Sinn Fein men collect cash for London protests

Members of Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, took part in a collection in Hammersmith town hall, London, last night, to help finance a "campaign of harassment" against police stations in Britain.

The collection was organized by a trade union committee set up to oppose the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Many of those at the rally said they were members of Sinn Fein.

The rally was told that money was needed for flying pickets to be called to police stations where suspects under the Act were being held.

Miss Annette Gonzalez, a member of the Westminster Teachers' Association and a member of the committee, said: "This is a way of fighting back against the police. They are always intimidating people and this is a way of embarrassing them."

Mr John Newham, a member of the Transport and General Workers' Union and chairman of the meeting, said that the committee was non-political.

Russian officers in Britain

A party of Soviet Army officers from the Frunze Military Academy, Moscow, arrived at Heathrow airport, London yesterday for a visit to the Army Staff College, Camberley. The leader of the party, Lieutenant-General V. G. Remichenko, was received by Major-General John Stanier, commandant of the staff college. The visitors were kept away from demonstrators campaigning for the release of Soviet Jews.

Unions not seeking early talks on pay

By Paul Routledge

Union leaders are not seeking early talks with the Cabinet on an incomes policy to follow phase two, but the TUC may respond to an urgent call from the Chancellor to negotiations at the Treasury on the future of the social contract.

These are the bargaining positions drawn up in advance of tomorrow's Budget, which the unions expect to give considerable direct tax concessions to workers on average and low pay. They are, however, deeply suspicious of increasingly strenuous ministerial insistence on a third year of pay restraint.

Mr Jack Jones, the transport workers' leader, who is generally regarded as the chief architect of the social contract, said last night that the Budget and its impact on workers' living standards would not be considered until the routine TUC economic committee meeting on April 13. He ruled out a meeting between the Chancellor and the TUC's top "Neddy six", but other voices almost as influential favour a start to talks on pay before the Easter recess.

"There is something owing to the working people of Britain," Mr Jones said. "The inflation rate is much higher than anticipated when we embarked on phase two. We were then talking about an inflation rate of about 7 per cent in relation to a wage movement of about 5 per cent and some tax concessions. But inflation is now running at 16 per cent."

He added: "We are confident there will be reductions in direct taxation that will help to restore the measure of confidence in the Government", but he gave a warning against "unhelpful intervention" by the Liberals in the complex and sensitive negotiations ahead. He rejected any idea of a Liberal veto

For its part, the TUC economic committee will continue to be governed in its discussions with the Government by the terms of last year's congress resolution which called for an orderly return to voluntary collective bargaining, observing certain priorities and averting a wages explosion, when the present powers expire on July 31. The unions have not put an upper limit on pay ambitions for the 1977-78 wage round, though 10 per cent has been mentioned.

An influential minority on the economic committee, including Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, have been arguing the case for early talks on pay and the other elements of the social contract, including prices, economic and industrial policies, and import controls, but they have bowed to the majority view put forward by Mr Jones.

The Jones "wait and see" line has won majority backing because the unions resented the way both the £6 phase one and the original phase two Budget plan of 3 per cent (later modified to 5 per cent in negotiations) were presented by the Chancellor. There has been a revolt against being presented with a fait accompli.

In its 1977 *Economic Review*, put to ministers as a basis for the Spring Budget, the TUC called for a controlled reflation of the United Kingdom economy, with a net cut in income tax of £1,500m and increased public spending of £870m on a wide variety of demands, from more houses to greater state investment in industry.

'Change tax law for married women' plea

The Equal Opportunities Commission yesterday called for a radical change in income tax legislation to reflect the equal roles of husband and wife.

In a note to Mr Healey, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the commission said it would like to see the system changed to enable each spouse to make an independent or a joint declaration of income

At present the Inland Revenue treated wives as "invisible". They lost control of their income for tax purposes because only husbands were required to make a return. The legislation created "difficulties, humiliation and domestic friction" for married women, as representation to the commission had shown.

Correspondence was always addressed to the husband even if connected with his wife's income.

Many Inland Revenue forms had an instruction saying: "If you are a married woman living with your husband, he should complete the form as if it were addressed to him." That gave the impression that a wife was incapable of dealing with her own tax affairs.

Privacy in income ta ters was an impossible tive for the married under normal rules of ment. The husband was aware of the details wife's income but the c was not true. "This can serious problems within riage, for instance, wh wife does not wish he band to know of a account."

Many women were i employment, paying a the joint income tax but the present law that the Inland treated that as tax paid husband. That was one main complaints made ried women to the comm

"When they are due tax refund, the cheque matically made payable husband. In some in brought to our attenti has had serious conseq for wives.

"Once married peop treated as individuals making declarations of it also follows that they responsible for the paya their own tax and will tax repayments in the right."

Conservative campaign to warn taxpayers

Continued from page 1

line on this", he said. "I do not expect national output to go up very much from August, 1977, although it will start to grow in 1978 at last.

"Therefore, if you are being really hard-headed about it, what the country can afford is nought. But you have to be politically realistic and you cannot get away with nothing. What I would like to see is no national increase at all under a nationally agreed pay agreement, but something of the order of 5 to 10 per cent available for plant bargaining. This would, of course, be linked to productivity and deal with the differentials problem."

Labour backbenchers and the unions will be highly critical if the Chancellor does not lower the initial rate of income tax (35 per cent) or increase the tax threshold to benefit low-paid workers. The threshold is £1,685 in the United Kingdom, compared with £2,200 in Germany and Belgium, £2,700 in Denmark, £2,750 in The Netherlands, £3,550 in France and £4,550 in Luxembourg (based on January 1 rates of exchange).

For skilled workers and managerial staffs Mr Healey is expected to adjust the tax bands so that the high industrial wage earner does not get included in the 40 per cent bracket with a taxable income of £5,000. That has been criticized by unions and management alike as a disincentive to extra productive effort.

In a parliamentary reply to Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, the shadow Chancellor, Mr Healey said that assuming an inflation rate of 15 per cent between April, 1976, and April, 1977, the value of the main personal tax allowances would have to be increased by about £1,300m to maintain their real value. To restore them to their real value in comparison with the position in April, 1973, would require them to be increased by £3,500m.

A parliamentary answer given at the end of last year showed how tax and other revenues had increased between 1973-74 and this year, and tended to support the Liberal Party argument that the main room for manoeuvre is on taxes on consumption.

Taxes on personal income have gone up by 129 per cent, on expenditure by 67 per cent, and on capital by 5 per local authority rates have up by 70 per cent and em national insurance contrib by 65 per cent. Tax reven insurance contributions gone up as a proportion of domestic product from 3 cent in 1960 to 39.8 per in 1975.

The Conservative camp to warn taxpayers against misled by stories of a "away" Budget is based o assumption of a 15 per inflation rate in the past But a parliamentary reply by Mr Healey on Thu stated that the rate in th months to February was per cent.

The Chancellor added: rate of inflation should falling quite quickly durin summer, when we have absorbed the impact of year's depreciation. In the ger term, the continued f the rate of inflation will de on a satisfactory agreeme a third round of pay polic

When the parliame Labour Party met two w ago to give Mr Healey it quests for the Budget, se backbenchers made strong for special assistance to construction industry. T will be widespread disapp ment if the Chancellor does heed that appeal.

Effect of VAT increase: seems likely that if the Ch cellor wants to give away m more than £1,000m in tax co cessions he will have to g revenue elsewhere (David Ba writes). Raising VAT to 10 p cent would yield about £700 The disadvantage is that i would raise the retail pri index by about 1 per cent, b that increase would be le noticeable for low-income fa lies, since many of the goo they buy are zero-rated.

Concessions of about £1,00 assume that the public sec borrowing requirement will about £8,700m in 1977-78. I one of the Chancellor's diffic ties is to know what allowa to make for the great man of error in PSBR forecasti Borrowing this year, for ample, is likely to be as m as £2,000m below the level p dicted. So the Chancellor co possibly, argue that he had m room for manoeuvre.

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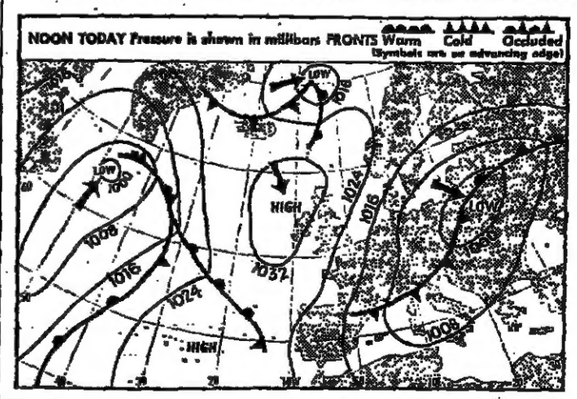
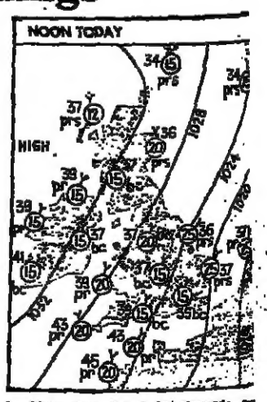
Weather forecast and recordings





b—blue sky; bc—half clouded; c—cloudy; o—overcast; f—fog; d—drizzle; h—hail; m—mist; r—rain; s—snow; th—thunderstorm; p—showers; prs—periodical rain with snow.

Today

Sun rises: 6.46 am — Sun sets: 7.27 pm
Moon sets: 2.53 am — Moon rises: 12.1 pm
Full Moon: April 4.
Lighting up: 7.57 pm to 6.13 am.
High water: London Bridge, 8.2 am, 5.8m (19.1ft); 8.19 pm, 5.7m (18.6ft). Avonmouth, 12.24 am, 10.1m (33.1ft); 12.56 pm, 9.7m (31.8ft). Dover, 5.9 am, 5.1m (16.9ft); 5.56 pm, 5.0m (16.4ft). Hull, 12.12 pm, 5.6m (18.4ft). Liverpool, 5.17 am, 7.2m (23.7ft); 6.1 pm, 7.0m (23.0ft).

Pressure is high W of the British Isles. A very cold N airstream will cover all areas.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight.

London, SE, E England, East Anglia: Showers of sleet or snow, sunny intervals; wind N, fresh or strong; max temp 4° to 5°C (39° to 41°F), after early frost.

Central S, SW England, Channel Islands, S Wales: Sunny intervals, scattered wintry showers; wind N, fresh; max temp 5° to 6°C (41° to 43°F).

Midlands, N Wales, NW, Central N England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: Sunny intervals, occasional showers of sleet or snow, chiefly in afternoon; wind N, fresh; max temp 4°C (39°F), after early frost.

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands: Showers of sleet or snow, sunny intervals; wind N, fresh or strong; max temp 3° to 4°C (37° to 39°F), after early frost.

Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Showers of sleet or snow; wind N, fresh; max temp 1° to 3°C (34° to 37°F), after early frost.

Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday:

At first, N and E will have wintry showers, but most other areas will be dry, with sunny spells. Later rain will reach NW and spread gradually SE and it will become less cold.

Sea passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind N or NE, strong to gale; sea rough or very rough.

St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind NE, strong to gale, becoming N, fresh or strong; sea rough

Saturday

London: Temp: max 7 am to 7 pm, 9°C (48°F); min 7 pm to 7 am, 7°C (45°F). Humidity, 7pm, 89 per cent. Rain, 24 hr to 7 pm, 0.09 in. Sun, 24 hr to 7 pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 7 pm, 1,014.5 millibars, falling.

Yesterday

London: Temp: max 7 am to 7 pm, 8°C (46°F); min 7 pm to 7 am, 7°C (45°F). Humidity, 7 pm, 81 per cent. Rain, 24 hr to 7 pm, 0.29 in. Sun, 24 hr to 7 pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 7 pm, 1,010.9 millibars, rising.
1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Akrotiri	c	19	66	Cologne	r	10	50	Locarno	c	16	61	Nice	s	16	61
Algiers	c	19	66	Copenhagen	c	6	43	London	r	7	45	Oslo	sn	0	32
Amsterdam	r	6	43	Dublin	c	5	41	Luxembourg	c	10	50	Paris	r	12	54
Athens	f	18	64	Edinburgh	s	3	37	Madrid	f	16	61	Reykjavik	c	3	37
Barcelona	s	17	63	Funchal	s	20	68	Majorca	f	17	63	Rome	s	18	64
Beirut	s	22	72	Geneva	c	15	59	Malaga	f	22	72	Ronaldsway	f	5	41
Berlin	c	6	43	Gibraltar	f	18	64	Malta	s	19	66	Stockholm	sn	1	30
Bermuda	r	16	61	Guernsey	c	9	48	Manchester	c	14	57	Tel Aviv	s	21	70
Biarritz	s	15	59	Helsinki	s	-2	28	Miami	f	25	77	Toronto	c	7	45
Bristol	r	5	41	Innsbruck	r	11	52	Montreal	s	4	39	Venice	f	18	64
Brussels	c	9	48	Jersey	c	11	52	Moscow	f	5	41	Vienna	f	16	61
Budapest	f	16	61	L. Palmas	f	20	68	Munich	r	10	50	Warsaw	r	3	46
Chicago	r	17	63	Lisbon	c	16	61	New York	s	12	54	Zurich	r	10	50

Overseas selling prices
Austria, Sch 17; Belgium, BFr 28; Canaries, Pes 45; Denmark, DKr 3.00; Finland, Fmk 3.00; France, Fr 2.50; Germany, Dmk 2.50; Greece, Dr 50; Holland, Dfl 2.50; Italy, Lira 500; Luxembourg, Lux Fr 28; Madeira, Esc 20.00; Malta, 9c; Norway, Kr 4.50; Portugal, Esc 25.00; Spain, Pes 40; Sweden Skr 4.00; Switzerland, Sfr 2.50; USA/Canada, $1.00; Yugoslavia, Din 22.

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HOME NEWS

Scottish Tories will smooth over their internal differences on what form devolution should take

From Martin Huckerby
Edinburgh

The predicted battle between the supporters and opponents of devolution at the Scottish Conservative conference in May looks like being averted by a compromise motion that has been selected by party leaders.

The issue is not yet cut and dried, because there are diehards on both sides, but it appears that the Conservative talent for smoothing over internal dissensions is not totally lacking in Scotland.

Conflict has been expected because, despite the views of most of the 16 Scottish Conservative MPs, the party's commitment to a directly elected assembly for Scotland is dead. Nothing is being admitted officially, but the party wants simply to inter it as quietly as possible. Despite some pressure in the Shadow Cabinet, however, it does not intend to go to the extreme of opposing all devolution; its stated aim is "to keep the options open".

The motion selected for the Scottish conference will include a definite commitment to devolution, although in unspecific terms. There will be a call for a complete reconsideration of the subject and no mention at all of a directly elected assembly. The aim is to provide a motion worded so generally that both sides will find it acceptable, reading into it whatever they want.

Such an accommodation would not be possible without the flexibility shown by the supporters of devolution since the debacle of last December, when the Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, and other Scottish members of the Conservative front bench resigned over the party's decision to vote against the second reading of the Devolution Bill. Most of the devolutionists now accept that opinion in the party nationally is no longer on their side and thus they are willing to compromise.

One contributing factor has been the appointment of Mr Francis Pym as the Conservative spokesman on devolution in place of Mr Whitelaw, who was regarded as facing both ways on the issue. Mr Pym has helped to keep the devolutionists' allegiance by maintaining in public that there must be some sort of devolution.

The replacement of Mr Buchanan-Smith by Mr Edward Taylor was seen as an indication that the party was going to oppose devolution completely, a stand that had been favoured by Mr Taylor.

However, Mr Taylor was chosen largely because he was the only Conservative MP of any stature in Scotland who was not actually a devolutionist. And, as one true devolutionist put it, by placing Mr Taylor in charge and thus making him responsible for uniting the Scottish party, the leadership had neutralized him. Instead of being able to fight wholeheartedly against devolution, he had to seek a compromise.

Mr Taylor is now advocating removing Scottish functions from Westminster and moving them to Edinburgh.

Every Monday the Scottish Grand Committee and the Scottish Standing Committee would meet at the Royal High School; Scottish question times would also be held there, and a Scottish select committee could be established to watch such organizations as the Scottish Development Agency.

He believes that such an arrangement, particularly if the proceedings were televised, would have much appeal.

The supporters of devolution talk of pressing for a constitutional conference, a grander version of the present all-party talks, but they are concerned mainly to hold the line, to ensure that the devolution commitment remains as strong as possible.

Mr Buchanan-Smith has staked out his position by helping to found the new alliance for a Scottish assembly, an inter-party group pressing for a much more powerful assembly than the Conservative leadership would accept.

He and a few others could thus find themselves involved in a confrontation at the Perth conference, but the pressures for reconciliation are considerable. The Conservatives believe that they are riding the crest of a wave in Scotland and they do not want anything to rock the boat.

Voting plan for unions in local government

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Staff

Plans to give trade union representatives voting powers on council committees and the right to speak at full council meetings are proposed today by the National and Local Government Officers Association (Nalgo).

It urges the establishment of workers' councils which would elect at least two trade union representatives to each committee and at least four to the full council. The proposals go farther than the TUC-Labour Party standpoint in some respects.

Nalgo, the biggest public sector union, also proposes closer worker involvement in the National Health Service, electricity, gas, water and transport industries, and in universities, industrial estates and new towns. It says that joint regulation and control over all decisions affecting working lives is the true purpose of industrial democracy.

Workers' councils in local authorities are essential in ensuring that a common trade union viewpoint is expressed over policies and conduct, the union says.

Nalgo says the TUC proposals will not provide for industrial democracy in local government comparable with the recommendations for other industries and services.

Asbestos dangers threaten a £200m industry

By Neville Hodgkinson
Social Policy Correspondent

The Advisory Committee on Asbestos is planning to hold a three-day public hearing in June or July. Some of the key organizations and individuals who have made submissions to it will be asked to appear before the committee to give oral evidence.

The move is mainly to acquaint the public with the nature of the task facing the committee, whose members want an open debate on similar lines to that begun last year on nuclear power.

With a question mark hanging over the survival of the £200m British asbestos industry, one of the central questions the committee is being forced to consider is: to what extent, if any, should jobs and national prosperity be put before the lives of those who die prematurely because of asbestos-related disease?

The committee was set up by the Government a year ago to review the risks to workpeople and the public arising from exposure to asbestos dust, and to make recommendations on whether further protection is needed.

It has before it new epidemiological evidence leaving little doubt that the official standard for dust levels for those working with asbestos offers less protection against asbestosis, the scarring of the lungs that can lead to crippling disease and early death, than was thought when the standard was introduced in 1969.

It also has to assess the significance for human health of a growing body of evidence that all kinds of asbestos fibre are capable of causing cancer, even in relatively small quantities, although there are data that show that the lower the exposure, the lower the risk of developing cancer.

Two important reports about to be published in Europe and the United States have both concluded that since there is no evidence at present that any level of asbestos exposure can be considered safe, any exposure must for the time being be considered unsafe.

The EEC report, *Public Health Risks of Exposure to Asbestos*, points out that there are traces of asbestos in the lungs of most of the general population, indicating a low but widespread risk of asbestos-related tumours.

On the basis of the report, the European Commission is to propose to the Council of Ministers that measures should be introduced to reduce asbestos dust to the lowest practicable levels in the workplace, and that special attention should be paid to unnecessary risks of exposure in the general public.

The United States report, from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, says that the hygiene standard for those working with asbestos should be set at the lowest level detectable by available analytical techiques. It recommends a standard of 100,000 fibres a cubic metre of air. That is 0.1 fibres a cubic centimetre, one twentieth of the present British standard of two fibres a cc.

In Britain the Advisory Committee on Asbestos has been urged by the TUC that the maximum airborne concentration of fibres for those working with chrysotile, the common white asbestos, should be reduced to 0.2 fibres a cc. The TUC wants an immediate compulsory, planned programme to substitute safer materials for asbestos products and processes.

Mr Wilfred Howard, the industry's spokesman, says that a fibre maximum of 0.2 would mean the wholesale closure of British asbestos factories, which employ 20,000 people.

As well as the 20,000 jobs directly at risk, a further 100,000 people were employed in jobs that brought them into regular contact with asbestos.

Drug advisers split on cannabis proposals

By Stewart Tendler
Home Affairs Reporter

Government advisers on drug policy are divided over proposals to liberalize the law on possession of cannabis.

Last Thursday a backbench attempt in the Lords to amend the Criminal Law Bill and remove the penalty of imprisonment for summary conviction for possession was defeated by the Government. In the process Lord Harris of Greenwich, Minister of State at the Home Office, hinted at the proposals now being discussed.

He told the Lords last month that a working party of the Standing Advisory Council on Drug Addiction was considering the question of cannabis and on Thursday he suggested that the Government would look favourably on removing prison penalties for a first offence.

That had been suggested by the working party, which has gone farther and proposed that possession of cannabis and cannabis resin should be moved to the lowest classification of drugs set out in the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971.

As a result of being moved to a C classification, the penalties for possession of cannabis would be lower than the position now, where it is classified in Class B. But the proposal covers only summary trial and leaves several issues unresolved.

Those include the position of an offender who might choose trial by jury and thus run the risk of being convicted of an offence under Class B instead of Class C. There is also the question of what category the trafficker is placed in.

The proposal by the working party met with opposition from the subcommittee on legal and administrative matters. The working party reconsidered the matter last week and that meeting produced the division of opinion.

No final decision can be taken until the question of cannabis leaf and stalk is resolved in the court.

But the full advisory council is to meet next month to consider the position so far and the divisions that have arisen. The council has to be consulted before the Act can be changed, but it may not be possible to get a unanimous endorsement for what has been proposed so far.

1945 rule 'hindering jobs aid to handicapped young'

By Mark Jackson, of *The Times Educational Supplement*

A 32-year-old Whitehall agreement is preventing Government training funds being used to help young people. Local authorities are discovering that special courses can help youngsters with physical or mental disabilities to get work, but most of them cannot afford to run the courses without government grants.

One course in Somerset has been able to start only because students at a local technical college have given up half their games room and have promised to devote the proceeds of their annual rag to materials and equipment for the course.

The Manpower Services Commission which controls training funds and is having difficulty in spending its £436m budget, has refused to help. It says that an agreement made in 1945 between the then ministers of education and of labour and national service makes handicapped young people the responsibility of the Department of Education and Science.

The department says that its circular 68/45 which embodies the agreement is still in force although "it is subject to review." It adds that it has no funds to help local authorities to run training courses.

The circular stipulates that the agreed lines of demarcation should not be permitted to prevent the handicapped from receiving whatever training they need to prepare them for employment. Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent, South, intends to raise the matter in Parliament.

The British Youth Council is presenting the Government with a programme it considers necessary to reduce unemployment among the young (Our Labour Staff writes).

It wants young people to receive financial aid during the last years of school and the immediate post-school period to enable them to gain experience in community work.

The council makes 34 main recommendations that appear to exceed the £200m-a-year proposals being made by the Holland working party at the Manpower Services Commission. It is thought the Government will extend its allocation for easing youth unemployment from September.

Local authorities should be given funds to undertake direct labour enterprises. The job-creation and work-experience programmes should be expanded.

Youth Unemployment: Causes and Cures (British Youth Council, 57 Charlton Street, London, NW1 1AU; £1.26, including postage).

TUC asked again to resolve 16-week journalists' dispute

By Our Labour Staff

The TUC printing industries committee is being asked to make another attempt to solve a 16-week strike by journalists at East Midlands Allied Press, Kettering. The request is being made by the executive of the National Union of Journalists, which on Friday was lobbied by two groups, one wanting a return to work and the other urging an extension of the action.

The executive agreed to increase weekly strike pay from £25 to £40.

Twelve journalists presented executive members with letters warning them that if the action was not called off they would have to review their continued membership of the NUJ.

The dispute, involving 70 journalists, began over a fringe benefits claim which was settled after the unprecedented intervention of the printing industries committee. However, a return to work was prevented because NUJ members would not work alongside nine journalists who had joined the rival, non-TUC, Institute of Journalists.

The dispute is affecting the *Northampton Evening Telegraph*, which is being produced in a reduced form by the editor, Mr Ronald Hunt; the weekly *Wellingborough and Rushden News*, and the weekly *Market Harborough Mail*.

Seat retained: Mr Denis MacShane, a broadcasting member of the NUJ executive, has succeeded by nine votes in holding on to his seat after a no-confidence vote held among broadcasting members of the union.

Police 'inquiring into teachers' political views'

By a Staff Reporter

Lewes Labour Party has written to Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, asking for an inquiry into alleged investigations by Special Branch officers into the "extreme views" of teachers at schools in East Sussex.

Mr Jack Huntley, secretary of the party, said yesterday that a resolution had been sent to Mrs Williams strongly objecting to police inquiries into the political views of teachers.

He could not reveal where his information came from, he said. But he had been informed that interviews about the views of members of staff had been carried out with individual teachers in at least one school and with the headmaster of at least one other.

Mr Huntley named Prideways comprehensive school, Newhaven, and Hampden Park secondary school, Eastbourne. Other schools where the police are alleged to have made similar inquiries are Tideway school, Newhaven, and Bexhill Grammar School.

The Department of Education and Science had acknowledged receipt of the local Labour party's letter and said that it had been passed to Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, Mr Huntley said.

Flu vaccinations after check on old folk's home

Old people in North Tyneside are to be vaccinated against influenza after the death of 16 residents at a council home at West Monkseaton, near Newcastle upon Tyne.

Health officials believe that specimens taken from Earsdon Grange old people's home have been identified as strain A influenza virus.

The residents of all North Tyneside Council's eight homes and those at private nursing homes in the area will be vaccinated in a campaign starting today.

The council said yesterday, however: "Although there is a strong likelihood that strain A has been the cause of the outbreak, we cannot say for sure that it caused all the deaths."

The first illness at Earsdon Grange was discovered on March 5, and the first death was on March 11. Of nine women and seven men who died, four were aged over 90

Security warning

Pilferage could be costing business £2m a day, Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, has said in an open letter to businessmen. He suggests that firms should seek police advice about crime prevention and make security a regular item on the agenda of board meetings.

HOME NEWS

Inquiry into health gap between the classes

By a Staff Reporter

The Government is to launch an inquiry into the reasons why unskilled workers and their families have poorer health than the professional classes, Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced yesterday.

Speaking to the Socialist Medical Association in London, he said that the Government was determined to reduce the inequalities in health between the different social classes. There was no evidence to suggest that differences in health standards among the social classes were narrower today than 40 years ago, despite the National Health Service and other social advances.

Giving figures showing that the health of unskilled workers and their families compares badly with that of the professional classes, Mr Ennals said: "The families of unskilled workers die younger, suffer more from diseases like bronchitis, tuberculosis and lung cancer, have fewer of their own teeth, smoke more and so on".

When looking at causes for the difference in health standards the different life-styles between the social classes were highly suggestive, and housing was an obvious example.

Sir Douglas Black, chief scientist at the Department of Health and Social Security, had appointed three advisers to commission a comprehensive survey, Mr Ennals said. They would include Professor Jeremy Morris, Professor of Community Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and Professor Peter Townsend, Professor of Sociology at Essex University.

Test hero: Derek Randall, who scored 174 runs in the second innings of the recent centenary Test match against Australia in Melbourne, arriving yesterday for a civic reception in East Retford, Nottinghamshire, where he grew up. Despite rain, he was driven through the town in an open car, and about a thousand people turned out to greet him. Mr John Hobbs, the Mayor, presented him with an engraved silver salver on the town hall balcony, and told the crowd: "No other person has done so much to put Retford on the map."

UK likely to get £120m energy laboratory

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A £120m laboratory for the Joint European Torus (Jet) experiment to do research into the almost limitless source of energy available from a new type of nuclear fusion reactor is expected to be at Culham, Oxfordshire.

The location of the laboratory has been part of a European dispute over the spending of £300m over the next five years on research into nuclear fusion energy, which is the combining of deuterium and tritium. Those are different forms of hydrogen; the first is obtainable from seawater and the second is manufactured.

Preliminary discussions over the dispute have resolved most of the difficulties before the meeting of the science ministers of the European Council tomorrow.

Culham is the most experienced fusion research centre in Europe and the home of a European design team under Dr P. H. Rebut, a Frenchman, established in 1974 to plan the new system.

However, as some of the research laboratories of the European Commission that belonged to the disastrous Euratom project are still an embarrassment, having little work, the commission, with the Italian Government, was pressing in February, 1976, for Jet to go to the laboratory at Ispra, north of Milan.

Other qualified contenders were Garching, in Germany, and Cadarache, in France. Informal negotiations over the past few months have produced plans for dividing work between Culham and the German and French laboratories, to form a sensible research programme.

It is also tacitly understood that the United Kingdom will place more emphasis on the novel alternative sourses of energy development while France and Germany concentrate on thermal and fast breeder nuclear reactors.

As neither of those countries have offshore oil and their coal industries have been run down, both have far greater commitment to nuclear power than the United Kingdom.

A solution over the fusion project which agrees to its construction at Culham will give the British Department of Energy the lever it needs to change the Atomic Energy Authority into a more general energy research and development agency.

One purpose of the change in the United Kingdom is to harness the immense resources of Harwell for development and engineering of solar, tidal, wavepower, windpower and other renewable sources of power but, more important, to focus research on energy conservation methods through improving efficiency of combustion systems using fossil fuels.

That object is reflected in agreements recently signed with the International Energy Agency for research by 12 countries. Those projects in which Britain will collaborate are aimed at improving methods, including computer programmes, to enable architects and engineers to minimize the amount of energy needed in buildings.

Another project is to improve the efficiency of internal combustion engines.

Ombudsman's tax advice ignored

By Marcel Berlins

The Inland Revenue have refused to drop a claim for more than £600 against a taxpayer even though the Parliamentary Commissioner (Ombudsman) had found that the department's own maladministration was the cause of the tax liability being incurred.

The report of the Ombudsman, at the time Sir Alan Marre, referred to "administrative failures" and "quite unconscionable and indefensible delays" by the tax authorities, without which most of the tax liability would not have arisen.

But his suggestion that the Inland Revenue should drop part of their claim was rejected by the department, and they have pursued their demand for the full amount unremittingly.

In a letter Mr Davies, Minister of State for the Treasury, gave as one reason for disregarding the Ombudsman's report the possibility that "the implications of adopting his views in a particular case would be very far-reaching, and in these circumstances it is right that a department should be entitled to look beyond the individual case".

The complaint to the Ombudsman was brought by Mr and Mrs Roy Lewis, of Richmond, Surrey. Mr Lewis is a journalist, a former staff member of *The Times* and now a frequent contributor to it.

The details are complicated. Broadly Mrs Christine Lewis, with the help of her professional advisers, set up a trust in such a way as to attract, as they thought, certain tax exemptions. Details of the trust settlement were sent to the Inland Revenue in June, 1970.

A year later, in June, 1971, the trustees were advised by the tax office involved that the form of the trust fell outside the criteria laid down by the law for tax relief. Within a very short time, one month, an amended trust deed was sent back to the tax authorities, taking into account the reasons mentioned by the revenue for deciding that the original trust did not benefit from the tax exemptions claimed.

There was then a delay of nearly three years. It was in March, 1974, that the Inland Revenue told Mrs Lewis's advisers that the amended deed, too, did not fall within the legal criteria for attracting tax exemptions.

The Inland Revenue then demanded more than £600 tax from Mr Roy Lewis, who was a beneficiary of the trust, even though he had received no benefit from it whatever, and was unlikely to for many years.

There is little doubt that, under the law, that amount is payable. The Lewises, however, contended that had the Revenue not delayed such an inordinate time in telling them that the trust was subject to tax liability, most of that liability would not have been incurred.

That contention was supported by the Ombudsman when the case was referred to him through Mr and Mrs Lewis's MP, Sir Anthony Royle.

In his report Sir Alan Marre says that the Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue "admits that the department was badly at fault" and had conveyed his "sincere apologies" to Mr and Mrs Lewis.

However, the department was not willing to waive its claim for the tax owed. Among the reasons given for its attitude was that responsibility for submitting trust deeds which met the tax concessions sought was that of the professional advisers, and that they were not entitled to assume that "silence means consent" on failing to hear from the tax authorities.

Sir Anthony Royle, following a negative response to a question he asked in the House of Commons, received a letter from Mr Davies which reiterated the arguments used by the Inland Revenue when responding to the Ombudsman, and added that the department had to look beyond the individual case and study the implications of accepting the Ombudsman's views.

The dispute is not yet over. Mr Lewis has appealed to the special commissioners, who are in effect the appeal court on tax decisions. It seems that legally he is not on strong ground on the pure tax point, and at a recent hearing the commissioners made it clear that their brief did not extend to coming to a judgment on whether the Inland Revenue had behaved properly.

The case is also pending before the House of Commons Select Committee on the Parliamentary Commissioner, which looks into the activities of the Ombudsman and can make recommendations to Parliament about the complaints he has dealt with and the response obtained from departments to his findings.

Mr Lewis believes that his experience has called into question the efficacy of the Ombudsman's office. "What point is there in having an Ombudsman if departments he criticizes can completely disregard his findings and refuse to make good the results of their maladministration?"

40 Revenue employees to every 10,000 taxpayers

The number of people employed in the Inland Revenue, the number of people paying direct taxes, and the number of revenue employees for each direct taxpayer were:

	Staff at end of year	Estimated taxpayers (000s)	Staff per 10,000 taxpayers
1944-45	35,745	14,600	25
1950-51	52,996	15,800	34
1955-56	50,533	16,550	31
1960-61	58,158	19,250	30
1965-66	59,516	19,330	31
1970-71	69,791	20,040	35
1975-76	80,255	20,750	39
1976-77	83,119	20,950	40

Answers in Parliament

A periodic digest of information given in parliamentary written replies, with the sources and dates on which they appeared in Hansard.

Treasury, March 23

Income tax: The effective rates of income tax for a married man with two children under 11 years, whose income was all earned, were as follows for the years named: 1970-71, with average earnings, 15.2 per cent; twice average, 23.5 per cent; three times average, 27 per cent; five times average, 34.8 per cent. 1973-74, 15 per cent, 22.4 per cent, 25.6 per cent, 34.8 per cent. 1976-77, 20 per cent, 28.3 per cent, 36.7 per cent, 49.5 per cent.

Treasury, March 23

European Community business: From June 30, 1975, to February 23, 1977, the date of the latest available volume of the *Official Journal* of the European Communities, 5,422 council and commission regulations and 1,557 other items, including directives and decisions, were published in final form. From June 1975, to March 1977, the House of Commons Scrutiny Committee examined 1,174 EEC documents and recommended 194 documents for further consideration by the House. Of those, 121 documents have been debated on the floor of the House and 15 documents in standing committee.

Lord President, March 15

Concessionary fares: Expenditure on concessionary fare schemes for the elderly by local authorities in England and Wales was about £61m in 1975-76 and is expected to be about £74m in 1976-77, both at outturn prices.

Transport, March 21

Education: In January, 1976, there were 440,683 under-fives receiving education in maintained schools in England, with some provision being made by all local education authorities.

Education, March 21

Drink and tobacco: In 1976 consumers' expenditure on alcoholic drink is estimated to have been £3,106m. Average expenditure a head of the population aged over 18 is: alcoholic drink £148, tobacco £77.

Treasury, March 21

Wine duty: Since January, 1974, the excise duty on table wine, including the special surcharge imposed from December 16, 1976, has increased by 333 per cent.

Treasury, March 15

Life expectancy: The life expectancy at birth in the years named is as follows: 1901-1910, men 48.5 years, women 52.4; 1920-1922 (55.6), 59.6); 1930-1932, (58.7, 62.9); 1950-1952, (66.4, 71.5; 1960-1962, (68.1, 74.0); 1972-1974, (69.2, 75.6).

The figures are based on the mortality experience during the periods shown, and do not represent the expectations of life of people who were born in those years.

Social Services, March 17

Induced births: The estimated number of induced births in NHS hospitals in England and Wales and their percentage of total NHS hospital births are as follows: 1970, 181,000 (27.2 per cent); 1971, 203,000 (29.6 per cent); 1972, 205,000 (31.5 per cent); 1973, 232,000 (37.2 per cent; 1974 (provisional), 246,000 (40.8 per cent).

Social Services, March 21

Gas central heating: A sample survey in 1975 indicated that about 4.24 million homes in Britain had gas central heating. Comparable figures for earlier years were: 1966, 0.65 million; 1967, not available; 1968, 1.09; 1969, 1.54; 1970, 1.88; 1971, 2.21; 1972, 2.59; 1973, 3.14; 1974, 3.80.

Energy, March 22

Six contestants for Grimsby Lab candidacy

Grimsby Labour party on Saturday drew up a short list of six possible candidates for the forthcoming by-election made necessary by the death of Mr Anthony Crosland.

They are: Mr Richard Leonard, aged 46, a journalist and formerly MP for Romford; Mr Roger Darlington, aged 29, a special adviser to Mr Rees, the Home Secretary; Mr Keith Kyle, aged 51, the television reporter, who unsuccessfully fought Braintree for Labour at the last election; Mr John Marek, aged 36, a university teacher from Aberystwyth; Mr Austin Mitchell, aged 42, a television journalist; and Mr Roger Undy, aged 36, a research fellow in industrial relations at Oxford.

The party is expected to make its choice in about five days' time. At the last general election, Mr Crosland had a majority of 6,982 over the Conservative in a four-cornered contest.

Clergyman wins crossword regional final

From Edward Akenhead
Crossword Editor, Edinburgh

The second regional final of the 1977 Cutty Sark/*The Times* National Crossword Championship took place at the George Hotel, Edinburgh, yesterday. It was attended by 67 competitors, nine of whom solved *The Times* four crosswords in the time allowed (30 minutes for each puzzle) without error, scoring maximum puzzle points of 124, the final order being decided on time bonus points.

The winner, who was one of the national finalists last year, was the Reverend Colin Watson with 61 time bonus points, and the runner-up, with 79 time bonus points, was Mr Grant Walker, a university teacher and a newcomer to the championship.

Prizes were also presented by Mrs Lindsay Ramsey, on behalf of Cutty Sark Scotch Whisky, to Mr Tony Parry and Lieutenant-Colonel J. K. Brown, who came third and fourth with 70 and 61 time bonus points respectively.

WEST EUROPE

EEC leaders agree on need for fund to stabilize prices

From Michael Hornsby
Rome, March 27

EEC heads of state and government concluded their European Council meeting in Rome yesterday in much better mood than has often been the case at these occasions in the past. Mr Callaghan, who was in the chair, described it as "a good conference atmospherically".

The most clearly positive outcome was the decision to invite Mr Roy Jenkins, as President of the European Commission, to the seven-nation London summit in May.

The decision is seen as setting an important precident—albeit not one admitted publicly—for future Community representation at restricted international gatherings.

Agreement was made possible by a graceful climbdown by President Giscard d'Estaing who under Gaullist pdessure had earlier been opposed to any Commission presence in London.

President Giscard d'Estaing said that the eventual compromise was "an appropriate solution" which he "had had in mind for a long time". In fact, it appears to have been a telephone call last Thursday evening from Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, which bdought the President round.

The agreed position is as follows: "The President of the Council and the President of the Commission will be invited to take part in those sessions of the Downing Street summit at which items within the competence of the Community are discussed. Examples of such items are negotiations about international trade and the North-South dialogue."

Mr Callaghan explained afterwards that when the summit discussions moved from the economic sphere to purely political matters—he cited South Afdica and the Middle East as examples—Mr Jenkins would be asked to withdraw.

Of more far-reaching importance may well turn out to be the emergence of a broad agreement on the need for a common fund to finance buffer stocks to stabilize the prices of selected commodities.

Mr Callaghan said that there had also been agreement to study the possible global extension of the "Stabex" system operated by the EEC and some 50 African, Caribbean and Pacific developing countries. It offers cash compensation to producers of raw materials for loss of export earnings because of sudden fluctuations in trade.

This should make it possible for the EEC to present a united front at the final stage of the North-South dialogue, Mr Callaghan said. Foreign ministers of the Nine would work out the details of the Community position next month, and then there would have to be coordination with other industrialized nations.

On the basis of his recent discussions with President Carter, Mr Callaghan felt confident that it would be "very easy to get a common position with the United States on a common fund for raw materials" and on a synchronized approach to the North-South dialogue generally.

There appears to have been a significant shift by Herr Schmidt, who had hitherto been very cool to the idea of a common fund. He is still more reserved than anyone else, and exacted from his colleagues their agreement to urge the Soviet Union and other communist countries to give greater financial assistance to developing countries.

The meeting also welcomed the general thrust of the European Commission's proposals for immediate remedial measures to prop up steel prices and for the longer-term structural reorganization of the steel industry.

Steel proposals, page 15

Silkin farm price plan fails to bridge gap

From David Cross
Brussels, March 27

The European Community's farm price negotiations ground relentlessly on today with little visible progress being made but with the ministers of agriculture still unwilling to abandon the April 1 deadline for an agreement.

The main problem is to bridge the enormous gap between the British and the Benelux countries over the size of any dairy price increase. The British are still calling for a virtual freeze, while the Belgians, in particular, are demanding generous treatment for their producers in the run-up to next month's general election.

In an attempt to make the European Commission's original offer of a 3 per cent milk price rise in the autumn more palatable, Mr John Silkin, the British Minister of Agriculture, in his capacity as acting president of the Council of Ministers, last night suggested an immediate 2 per cent increase. This would be further sweetened for the Benelux countries by giving them an extra 2 per cent and by abandoning attempts to get dairy farmers to pay a 2½ per cent tax on their products as suggested by the Commission.

To win over the British delegation, led by Mr Gavin Strang, parliamentary secretary at the Ministry of Africulture, Mr Silkin suggested a consumer butter subsidy of up to p0p a pound to be financed entirely by the Community. This would more than offset the 16p a pound rise likely to take effect in Britain this year. He also suggested that the 2 per cent milk increase should be waived in Britain.

These concilitary moves have so far been rejected by both the Benelux countries and the British. The West Germans, too, have voiced strong reservations about the butter subsidy on the ground that the cost would be too high.

Mr Strange has said that a butter subsidy is essential if the British Government is to accept such proposals as a devaluation of the so-called green pound.

Criticizing Mr Silkin's ideas, M Christian Bonnet, the French minister, remarked caustically that it was lucky his delegation had strong hearts. Otherwise they might have needed to summon an ambulance.

Fears for private schools if Spanish left gains power

From Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent
Tarragona, March 27

More than 1,500 parents with children at private schools all over Spain attended an international congress in Tarragona, near Barcelona this weekend and expressed their anxiety about the effects of a left-wing victory in the general election in June. Representatives from eight countries, including Britain, were at the congress.

Today the conference unanimously approved a memorandum calling on all Western European governments to honour the United Nations convenant on human rights respecting the rights of parents to send their children to private schools.

The memorandum urged governments to give vouchers to parents to send their children to state or private schools, the value of the vouchers being the average cost of state education. The British Conservative Party has promised to allow voucher experiments if it wins the next election.

Many speakers spoke of the dangers of private schools in Spain having to close and religious education being neglected. Parents complained that classes in state schools were too large.

Antonio Abollo, aged 17, a pupil at the school where the conference took place, said: "We are seeing in Italy that the private schools are being banned in areas of socialist dominance. We are afraid the same could happen in Spain."

Anarchist unionists rally outside Madrid

From William Chislett
San Sebastián de lost Reyes, March 27

The long-dormant Spanish anarchist trade union movement, the National Confederation of Workers (CNT) sprung to life in San Sebastián de los Reyes, 10 miles outside Madrid, today, when about 8,000 people packed the bullring here for the first authorized meeting since the end of the civil war.

Waving the red and black flag and chanting: "Anarchy and freedom", people arrived from all over Spain by car, bus and even racing bicycle.

Founded in 1911 the CNT had an estimated two million members by the time the civil war started in 1936. After the war many members went into exile and a number of those who stayed behind faced imprisonment or execution.

Since the death of General Franco, the CNT has been trying to reorganize itself. Today it showed that it had a nucleus of members—although it was hard to tell who was there as a convinced sympathizer or just on an outing. After all, left-wing rallies are still a novelty in Spain. There was not a single uniformed policeman in sight.

The overwhelming majority of people in the bullring were students, many of them bearded and long-haired. But there were also some old people, some of whom had fought in the defence of Madrid until the end of the civil war.

Señora Federica Montseny, the previous head of the CNT, was unable to attend as she is still not allowed to return from exile in France.

The organization of the meeting was true to the spirit of anarchism. There were no seating arrangements as people clambered all over the place and the CNT anthems and speeches relayed through loud speakers kept on fading. A large picture of Bakunin, the nineteenth century Russian anarchist, who greatly influenced the Spanish movement, was held aloft.

Señor Juan Gomez Casas, the secretary general of the CNT, who spent 14 years in prison, told the euphoric crowd that the libertarian movement in Spain was not dead and that the CNT was in the throes of reorganization.

He called for a minute's silence for all those who "had fallen for liberty". The silence was quickly broken by someone at the back of the ring shouting an insult. This was almost immediately drowned by shouts of: "Long live freedom".

Señor Luis Edo, the Catalan delegate, told the crowd that for the CNT there was no difference between ordinary and political prisoners and all should be released. Eighteen of its members are still in prison.

The CNT believes in a basically communal form of society with everyone controlling and taking part in the means of production.

When I asked an old anarchist at my side what was the difference between anarchism and communism, he replied: "We believe in a free society whereas the communist one is state totalitarianism; another form of fascism." Both his sons are CNT members. The organization will not take part in the general election as it does not believe in elections.

The Popular Socialist Party of Professor Enrique Tierno Galvan held a meeting in a Madrid bullring last night, attended by an estimated 25,000 people. Speakers called for a united socialist platform for the general election. "Spain tomorrow will be republican", was a popular slogan.

Spain and Mexico are expected to reestablish diplomatic relations after 40 years.

Corsican army post blown up

Bastia, March 27.—Five gunmen blew up a French Army outpost here at the weekend after overpowering four soldiers, police said today.

One of the raiders was reported as saying they belonged to the Corsican National Liberation Front, a militant autonomist group. Earlier a cork deport was destroyed by a bomb at Porette.—Reuter.

Danish printers reject dismissals

From Geoffrey Dodd
Copenhagen, March 27

The management of *Berlingske Tidende* announced at the weekend that it has dismissed the 1,000 printing workers who had been sent home on January 30 for obstruction. All outstanding payments would be settled on April 1 and the dismissals had immediate effect.

The company expressed regret that it was forced to take this step "which is intended to open the way for a new evaluation which will allow production to be resumed on a basis which can guarantee the future of the publishing house."

The unions involved will hold a meeting with the Berlingske printing staff tomorrow. The Berlingske shop steward, Mr Poul Erik Hausen said today: "We cannot accept these dismissals and still consider that we are involved in a conflict".

He felt that the dismissals could be invalid because the management had indicated that it would deduct the fines imposed on the workers by a labour court before paying off, and because the management had not contacted the unions or the stewards before acting.

"It is three to four months since there were rumours that Berlingske intended to stage an all-out war against the printing staff, and these rumours were obviously true."

He added: "I assume that the firm will now try to get printers through the labour offices, but they are not available."

To receive unemployment pay, the dismissed employees will have to register at a labour office and a refusal to accept work offered through the office would mean the loss of benefits.

Mr Olaf Poulson, the Berlingske general manager, said today that it was still the company's intention to continue publication of its newspapers and magazines. The newspapers provided about 25 per cent of total Danish press circulation. He added: "It is not impossible that we will engage some of the old employees."

Protest actions, started when Berlingske's decision was made public last night, stopped the Sunday edition of another national newspaper, *Politiken*, just as it was due to go to press. A Berlingske subsidiary, *Jydske Tidende* appeared because it was printed on outside presses.

Mr Poulson said the dismissals had been in response to union statements that the employees would not obey the court order to return to work. He was not prepared to indicate the next step but he agreed that it was very expensive to continue paying salaries to journalists and other employees.

In January the management announced that it faced a severe loss for 1977 unless new terms could be introduced for printers involving reductions in staff and pay. The printers' chapel (branch) could not accept the loss estimate or any suggestion of reduced pay.

Deliberate obstructions caused delays in production throughout January. When the printers refused to work changed shift times on January 30 the management sent the entire printing staff home.

The 228-year-old newspaper has not appeared since.

هكذا من الأصل

Anarchist unionists rally outsi Madrid

Barre call for discipline in war on inflation

From Paul Martin
Paris, March 27

M Barre, the Prime Minister, today reviewed the first six months of his war on inflation, declaring that political considerations would not divert his Government from its task.

Opening an international fair at Lyons, he called for "discipline" from all sections of society in the months ahead. His words had an added spice, coming after the left's advances in the municipal elections.

M Barre said no "magical remedies" existed to fight inflation, reduce unemployment, encourage investment and redress the balance of payments deficit. Only the cooperation of all concerned could ensure success.

Among the measures he announced however was government aid amounting to 2,000m francs (£470m) to stimulate investment in industry. This would be divided equally between large and smaller enterprises.

Turning to unemployment, the stick with which the left-wing opposition has battered the Government, the Prime Minister said it was impossible to come up with instant solutions. But proposals were under study to counter unemployment.

M Barre pointed out that the immediate results of his war on inflation had been favourable. Although price rises could be expected, the Government was determined that the purchasing power of the French people would be maintained.

With the bit between its teeth after its election success, the left may not be in the mood to "cooperate", as M Barre would wish, in the period leading up to the parliamentary election next year.

However many Frenchmen will find M Barre's sober tones a welcome change from the hyperbole of recent weeks. His manner and record of modest achievement have earned their respect since he took over as Prime Minister in September.

Doom-laden forecast of energy gap

From Richard Davy
Königswinter, March 27

In probably the most doom-laden of its annual conferences, the Anglo-German Association, which had its twenty-seventh meeting here at the weekend, turned its main attention from politics to the energy crisis.

It was given terrifying estimates of the gap between supply and demand that would be opening between 1985 and the year 2000 even if the best is made of known sources.

Yet protest groups have virtually brought to a standstill West Germany's ambitious nuclear energy programme. Some of the protesters were at the conference to contest the apocalyptic figures or to argue that more money should be invested in saving energy and developing alternative sources.

Mr Frank Chapple, general secretary of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union, called for the rapid development of nuclear energy as the only way of avoiding threats to living standards.

Mrs Shirley Williams, the Secretary of Education, said that parliaments must begin to make private interest groups answerable to the public and that too much secrecy was surrounding discussions between interest groups and governments.

This was echoed by Germans worried by the shift of decision-making away from Parliament to bureaucrats and technocrats and by the rapid growth of direct action groups outside Parliament.

orsican arm post blown up

Mafia trial papers go missing

From Our Correspondent
Rome, March 27

Court documents relating to proceedings against several Calabrian Mafia members have disappeared from courts at Reggio Calabria, according to a Calabrian Socialist Deputy. Some of the cases allegedly involved local politicians.

The claim, made in a parliamentary question to the Justice Minister, came six months after a judicial investigation was opened into allegations that the Mafia had infiltrated the legal system in Calabria.

The Deputy, Signor Salvatore Frasca, said inquiries made by a magistrate recently appointed to Reggio Calabria disclosed that 19 court dossiers had disappeared.

He said the files of a trial against a Mafia gang charged with murder, armed robbery and extortion were found in the home of a person who ran a photocopying service in the law courts.

smissals

21 Poles leave cruise ship

The Hague, March 27.—Twenty-one Polish passengers failed to rejoin the Polish cruise liner Stefan Batory when it left Rotterdam for London yesterday, Dutch police said. Three later asked for political asylum. There was no word from the others.

The Stefan Batory arrived in Rotterdam on Friday.

OVERSEAS

UN again fails to make progress in search for agreement to combat international terrorism

From Peter Strafford
New York, March 27

The United Nations has had another attempt at doing something about international terrorism, and once again it has made little visible progress.

At the end of two weeks of meetings last Friday night, a special committee reached agreement only on a document setting out the differences.

The basic problem, as so often before, was that most Western countries want action against terrorist activities regardless of the terrorists' motivations, whereas many of the Arab and African countries believe that terrorism can be excused if it is carried out in the name of national liberation.

The difference showed up in an exchange last Thursday between Mr Paul Fifoot, the British delegate, and Mr James Lutabanzibwa Kateka of Tanzania. In a statement of the British position, Mr Fifoot said he thought the best policy for the United Nations was to concentrate on acts and victims, rather than perpetrators or motives.

Mr Kateka replied that people who were struggling for liberation were by no means terrorists. In his view there should be a clear demarcation between wanton banditry, carried out without cause, and the activities of national liberation movements.

This was only the second session of the committee, which was set up in 1972 as a polite way of burying the attempt made that year by Dr Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary-General, to secure action against terrorism. The issue will now be referred to the General Assembly when it meets this autumn, to decide if more should be done.

The view of the Arabs and Africans is that international terrorism is certainly to be deplored, but that the United Nations should make a careful study of its underlying causes before it decides what to do. These causes, in their opinion, include imperialism, colonialism and racialism.

There is to be a meeting in August of a similar committee, which will discuss the narrower topic of the taking of hostages. This is the result of a West German move last year, and the hope is that more progress will be possible with this more easily defined subject.

World water crisis talks achieve little

From a Correspondent
Buenos Aires, March 27

Perhaps the main achievement of the first world water conference, which ended here on Friday, was its decision not to set up a special body to deal with the world's growing water crisis.

Throughout the two-week conference African states pressed for the establishment of a special fund to improve water supplies in third world countries, to be administered by a United Nations centre for water resources.

Those proposals, however, proved stillborn in the face of resistance from the industrialized countries, arguing that they would simply add extra flab to the United Nations bureaucracy, and from the Arab nations, likely to be required to provide much of the finance.

Both declared instead that problems like drought, floods and the already disastrous lack of pure drinking water in many Third World countries could be tackled by expanding existing organizations and regional arrangements.

Thus although the conference did manage some discussion of serious problems amid the inevitable political bickering, it has achieved nothing concrete.

The problems are simply being handed back to the General Assembly and to individual states, with a plea that the conference's recommendations on the need for accelerated development and orderly administration of the world's water resources, "be effectively implemented".

Homosexual leaders get pledge from Carter aide

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, March 27

A deputation of homosexuals was received at the White House yesterday by one of President Carter's senior advisers, who listened to their grievances about discrimination, principally in federal government employment.

"I just wish the people of this nation could have heard what I heard today", Miss Margaret Costanza, Assistant to the President, said afterwards. Homosexuals were a part of the population "oppressed to the point where they are afraid even to speak".

However true that might be in general terms, it is not true of the activists whose leaders were enthusiastic over their breakthrough in being noticed at the White House.

One of them said that Miss Costanza had given them a commitment to reform that might, in time, become comparable to Abraham Lincoln's emancipation of the slaves and Harry Truman's racial integration of the armed forces.

"This is the first time in the history of this country that a President has seen fit to acknowledge the rights and needs of some 20 million Americans", Miss Jean O'Leary of the "National Gay Task Force" said.

Mr Carter was at Camp David at the time of the meeting, but it would barly have been held without his authorization, although Miss Costanza's office declined to comment whether this was so.

Arab troops to stay in Lebanon

Cairo, March 27.—The Arab League agreed today to renew the mandate of the 30,000-man Arab peacekeeping force in the Lebanon for another six months, Mr Mahmud Riad, the league's secretary-general, said.

The meeting of foreign ministers or their representatives also agreed that Arab states should continue to share the 390m (£53m) cost of the peacekeeping operation.

According to last October's Cairo agreement, which ended the civil war in most of Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait will pay 20 per cent of the costs, the United Arab Emirates 15 per cent, Qatar 10 per cent and the other Arab states share the remaining 35 per cent.

The council began its meeting yesterday with a warning from Mr Riad that immediate action was needed to restore peace in southern Lebanon where fighting has continued despite last November's ceasefire.

Katangan rebels capture railway town

Kinshasa, March 27.—Katangan insurgents invading from Angola have overrun the important road and rail town of Mutshatsha, 60 miles from the copper-mining centre of Kolwezi, reliable sources reported today.

Radio contact with the town was lost yesterday and there is no news of the Zaire garrison. The local railway station master who left the town said the rebels were warmly welcomed by many of the 5,000 inhabitants.

President Mobutu had planned to fly a group of foreign reporters to Mutshatsha yesterday to disprove reports that the town had fallen. The flight was cancelled without explanation.—AP.

Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State (right), leaving the American Embassy during his first day in Moscow yesterday.

Muzorewa demand for referendum

From Michael Knipe
Salisbury, March 27

Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the leader of one of Rhodesia's four African nationalist factions, today called on Britain to organize and supervize a national referendum to elect a national leader to whom the Smith Government could hand over power.

The Bishop was addressing 5,000 delegates attending a congress of his United African National Council.

Shortly afterwards Mr Smith, the Prime Minister, said he would be happy to have an international power acting as a referee or adjudicator to a referendum. However, it was clear that the bishop and the Prime Minister differ substantially in their conception of a possible referendum.

The bishop said it should be a national one in which all blacks and whites over 18 would take part and its purpose would be to elect a national leader to whom Mr Smith could hand over power immediately.

Told this as he was leaving for South Africa, Mr Smith said that the idea was a "non-starter". His government had a clear mandate to act on behalf of the whites and a referendum would be an exercise to produce a leader of black opinion.

The Rhodesian leader was leaving for a two-week holiday in South Africa, during which he is expected to discuss a Rhodesian settlement with Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, and Dr Owen, the British Foreign Secretary.

At the congress in a Salisbury township, Bishop Muzorewa criticized Britain for the way it had let the people of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) down. The British had several times attempted to "sell us down the river" but they had failed. Now they were sending Dr Owen to consult the so-called front-line states.

The "masses of Zimbabwe" wanted a referendum to choose a national leader on the basis of one man one vote. Nothing less would satisfy them. Britain should organize such a referendum immediately and stop the needless bloodshed and suffering.

Podgorny view of the road to Rhodesia

From Nicholas Ashford
Livingston, March 27

Like thousands of visitors to Zambia before him, President Podgorny of the Soviet Union today stood by the Zambezi River and gazed across the Victoria Falls towards Rhodesia.

Through binoculars, the Soviet leader examined the Victoria Falls bridge spanning the gorge which separates Zambia from its white-ruled neighbour.

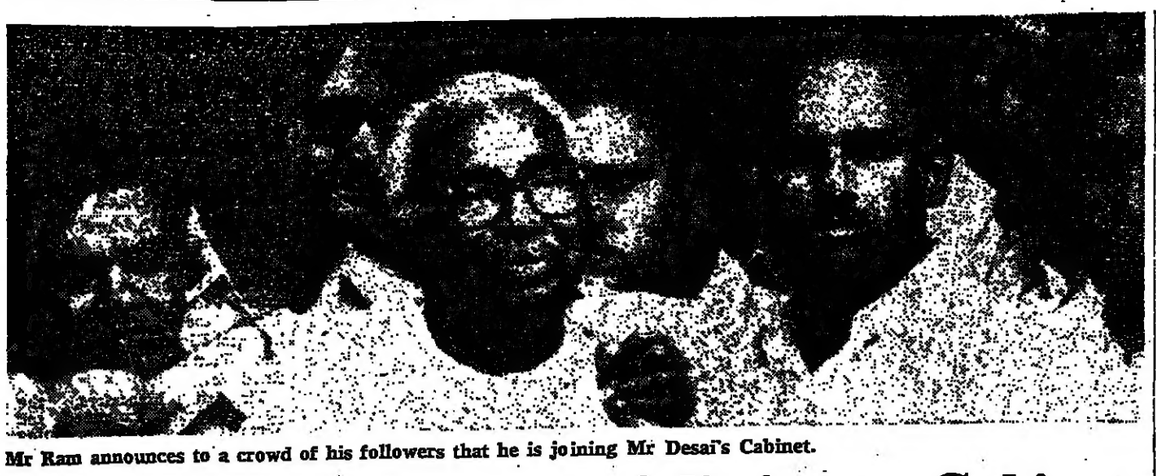
At a lunch at the nearby Mosi-o-Tunya hotel, he described the Zambesi as "the border between freedom and slavery which divides today's Africa". In Rhodesia and South Africa, he said, "mass terror, torture and killings have become events of everyday life.

The President challenged the Western powers who talked about human rights to go and see what was happening south of the Zambesi where the violation of human rights was the rule of law.

President Podgorny's appearance a few hundred yards from Rhodesia is of symbolic significance.

His country is the chief supplier of arms to the guerrilla forces of the Patriotic Front and it has long-standing links with Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe African People's Union wing of the Patriotic Front, which has its bases in Zambia. The Soviet leader is to hold talks with Mr Nkomo tomorrow.

OVERSEAS



Mr Ram announces to a crowd of his followers that he is joining Mr Desai's Cabinet.

Mr Ram has defence portfolio in new Cabinet

From Richard Wigg
Delhi, March 27

Ist leader of Congress for Democracy, was back today in Democracy, was back toda yin Mr Desai's new Janata Government for the second time in less than 48 hours.

This was the upshot of an intense political weekend in Delhi—of "confusion and misunderstandings" as India's new Prime Minister put it—to bring the two chief elements of the winning election alliance together in a Cabinet.

But this time, unlike Friday night when the Prime Minister, as head of the Janata (People's) Party seems to have tried to force things, Mr Ram called a press conference today to distribute a written statement saying he was putting himself "without any reservations in the hands of Mr Desai, irrespective of what place he allots to me".

Mr Ram is to become Defence Minister. He will be sworn in tomorrow along with his chief lieutenant, Mr H. N. Bahuguna, and possibly the two other reluctant ministers, Mr George Fernandes and Mr Raj Narain, who are Socialist members of the Janata alliance.

The new Minister of External Affairs is Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, a 50-year-old parliamentarian and former journalist active till now in Hindo nationalist politics and a newcomer to foreign affairs.

The second ranking figure in the Cabinet, it seems, will be Mr Charan Singh, the power behind the scenes in the choice of M rDesai.

The presidential address, setting out the new coalition Government's policy, is due at a joint session of Parliament tomorrow.

Mr Desai now has the advantage of having "Babuji", leader of the Untouchables and other underprivileged groups, whose votes helped Janata oust Mrs Ghandi, inside the Government. But chatting to reporters today, Mr Ram left a strong impression that the coalition Cabinet will be the scene of many policy debates. "Now I shall be in the Government to argue our case, that's clear", he said.

Mr Ram, who had held out against joining the Cabinet as a protest ove5 the way Mr Desai was selected as Janata leader, finally gave in after an appeal from Mr J. P Narayan, the so-called moral architect of the Janata nd Congraess for Demodracy (CFD) alliance. He praised Mr Ram as a "great socio-economic force" without whose coopcration the building of a new India would not be possible.

Both Janata and the CFD were also under pressure this weekend not to prove Congress right when it alleged during te *election* campaign that the "hotch-potch alliance" would fall apart as soonas it came to deciding who got the main posts. Their supporters across the country have been quick to disapprove all the politicking going on in the Delhi politicians' handsome bungalows.

Mr Ram and the three other new ministers simply failed to turn up at yesterday's swearing-in ceremony before the acting President, Mr B. D. Jatti, though their names were on an official list. Mr Desai announced the distribution of portfolios among the 14 ministers who did turn up, reserving defence, agriculture, and industries to himself or the "latecomers".

Mr Vajpayee is an accomplished orator and was the Opposition's star speaker in Delhi during the election campaign. His first test, in the light of Mr Desai's promise that India will be pursuing a "proper" non-alignment course comes in 11 days when he will be host to a meeting in Delhi of the foreign ministers of the non-aligned countries.

The new Cabinet is:
Prime Minister: Morarji Desai.
Home Affairs: Charan Singh.
Defence: Jagjivan Ram.
Foreign: Atal Behari Vajpayee.
Information and Broadcasting: L. K. Advani.
Agriculture and Irrigation: Pralash Singh Badal.
Works, Housing, Supply and Rehabilitation: Sikander Bakht.
Law, Justice and Company Affairs: Shanti Bhushan.
Education, Social Welfare and culture: Dr Pratap Chandra Chunder.
Railways: Madhu Dandivate.
Commerce, Civil Supplies and Co-operation: Mohan Dharia.
Tourism and Civil Aviation: Purushottam Kaushik.
Finance, Department of Revenue and Banking: H. M. Patel.
Steel and Mines: Biju Patnaik.
Energy: P. Ramachandran.
Chemicals and Fertilisers: H. N. Bahuguna.
Industries: Brijlal Verma.
Communications: George Fernandes.
Health and Family Planning: Raj Narain.
Parliamentary Affairs and Labour: Ravindra Varma.

Delhi, March 27.—Shaikh Mohammed Abdullah, Chief Minister of Kashmir, has resigned, the Samachar news agency announced today. The state governor has agreed to dissolve the Legislative Assembly.

The Shaikh's resignation was a sequel to the withdrawal of support for his Government by the Congress Party which now has a majority over the National Conference Party in the state legislature.

Mr Abdullah, known as the "Lion of Kashmir", returned to power in the state in February, 1975, after an agreement with Mrs Gandhi, the former Prime Minister. He had stayed away from the Kashmir political scene for about 22 years after serious differences between him and the central government had led to his dismissal and arrest. —Agence France-Presse.

New human rights group active in Poland

Warsaw, March 27.—A new human rights movement formed by a group of 18 Polish intellectuals issued a public appeal for support today.

It said that it was neither political in character nor opposed to the Government, but aimed at enforcing the United Nations Convention on Human Rights, ratified by Poland earlier this month.

The movement for the defence of human and civil rights reflected a steady social trend and was not "an organization or an association", according to the appeal.

A copy of the appeal was sent to about fifteen newspapers and to the Warsaw television station, but only Western correspondents attended a press conference in Warsaw today during which it was made public

Mr Leszek Moczulski, a journalist and spokesman for the movement. said that the text of the appeal had been prepared for some time, but that the group delayed publishing it to avoid the appearance of an attempt to put pressure on the Government to ratify the United Nations declaration.

The movement planned to cooperate with the Workers' Defence Committee. But the committee had been set up specifically in connexion with the riots against food price rises last June and would disband when the workers jailed for rioting were released and a commission was set up to investigate allegations of police brutality.

The movement, on the other hand, was concerned with human rights in general and "wants to continue its existence even when observation of human rights becomes common in Poland".

It hoped to mobilize people of good faith who could lobby for the respect of inalienable rights on an individual basis. Agence France-Presse and Reuter.

Prisoners of conscience

China: Ting Ling

By David Watts

Ting Ling's novels of the dilemmas facing Chinese woman during the 1920s brought her fame as a pioneer of a new type of heroine whose emancipated outlook makes today's women's liberationists see somewhat *déjà vu*.

Her leading characters, strong, independent and somewhat bewildered, were not only autobiographical to a certain extent but were equally reflective of the situation through which China was passing in the struggle for power between the communists and the Kuomintang. Shu was typical of the left-wing writers of the 1920s and 1930s who chose the communist side and have *since* suffered for it, because of the narrow-mindedness of Chairman Mao's doctrine on literature and the arts.

She began writing as a student and lived with Hu Yeh-pin, the communist poet, who began to substitute underground activities against the Nationalists for his failing career as a writer. But the couple, parents of an infant son, come to rely too much on the apparent safety of the foreign concession in Shanghai and in early 1931 Hu was arrested by the Nationalists and executed.

Hu's death seems to have pushed Ting Ling over the brink from novelist to revolutionary and she became a member of the communist party about two years later. Her novel, she wrote at the time. *Shui* (*Flood*), was acclaimed *by the communists as a significant* development of Chinese proletarian literature.

In May, 1933, her activities on behalf of the communists led to her abduction by the Nationalists' underground agents in Shanghai which resulted in protests from writers and intellectuals outside China. Her life was spared, she was imprisoned for a time and then lived on parole in Nanking for about three years.

At the time, her whereabouts were a mystery and she was thought to be dead. As a result, a "posthumous" collection of her works was published. Disguised as a Manchurian soldier, Ting Ling escaped to Peking before joining the communists at Yenan in 1936.

At the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese war she went to the front as a secretary with the army and wrote less as she became more involved with politics. What she did write, however, continued to be in her own independent vein and was, by no means, indealistic about the communist movement.

As the years went by she found herself unable to restrain herself writing critically about some aspects of the revolution and in a 1941 story, *In a hospital*, she described the bleakness of Yenan life. The following year, in the editorial column of a literary supplement, she lamented women's fate under the communists.

This, and other articles, prompted Chairman Mao to call the famous literary conference at which he delivered the lecture "Talks at the Yenan Forum, on Art and Literature".

Ting Ling was censured and secretly punished for her criticisms and from then on her star declined in the communist movement, though she was given a number of official posts after the establishment of the People's Republic. In 1952 she travelled to the Soviet Union to receive the 1951 Stalin Prize for Literature.

By 1955 Ting Ling was again in political trouble for rejecting party guidance. She was expelled from the party in 1958 and deprived of her rights as an author and a citizen for "conspiracy" against the party during the Hundred Flowers campaign.

Little has been heard of Ting Ling for some years, due to the difficulty of getting information on people who have fallen from grace with the Chinese regime, and it is not known what form of restriction she is under.

At one point she was reported *to have been working as a* charwoman in the Peking headquarters of the Writers' Association and in 1959 a visiting American journalist said she was in Manchuria serving a two-year term of reform through labour. In 1972, inquiries of another writer, elicited the reply that she heard from her "old friend" occasionally.

Seven die in Pakistan as police open fire

From Hassan Akhtar
Rawalpindi, March 27

Seven people, including a schoolgirl, were killed yesterday when police and troops opened fire on demonstrators in different parts of the country as thousands obeyed a Pakistan National Alliance call for a general strike to protest against the convening of the new National Assembly in Islamabad.

In Rawalpindi, six explosions rocked the city during the day. No damage was reported. But in the Punjab city of Jhang, there were reports that a 12-year-old boy had been killed in an explosion.

Many people were injured and scores arrested in the clashes and officials said police and troops had to open fire in self-defence. Karachi, where violent riots flared after the announcement of the poll results, remained under curfew for the seventh successive day.

In the capital, troops ringed the Assembly building as members of Mr Bhutto's People's Party and some independent members took their oaths of office.

All the alliance's 36 MPs boycotted the session. Many of them were arrested along with the main opposition leaders on Friday when Mr Bhutto's offer for talks about opposition complaints was again rejected.

The alliance has refused to recognize the validity of the March 7 elections, which it says were rigged.

Dr Shtern will be allowed to leave for Israel

Moscow, March 27.—Dr Mikhail Shtern, the Soviet Jewish medical practitioner who was released earlier this month after serving two years of an eight-year sentence on bribery charges, said yesterday that he and his wife had been given exit visas to leave the country.

Reached by telephone at his home in Vinnitsa, in the Ukraine, Dr Shtern said that he regarded the decision to reduce his sentence and release him, taken unexpectedly by the Ukrainian Supreme Court just before an international tribunal in Amsterdam was to discuss the case as "an act of humanity".

He added: "It was not an act of justice because I was not guilty, but that does not matter now. All that counts is that we will be reunited with our children."—Reuter.

Third World report

Poorest countries assured of finance on easy terms under Vienna agreement

By Melvyn Westlake

An agreement between some two dozen industrial and oil-exporting countries, after almost 18 months of negotiations, has ensured that there will now be a steady flow of cheap finance to the world's poorest nations until the end of the decade.

The agreement, which will inject $7,637m (£4,500m) into the International Development Association (IDA), was signed in Vienna earlier this month and has arrived just in time. For without that money, the IDA—the "soft arm" of the World Bank—was faced with closure from next July.

The new money will mean the fifth replenishment of the IDA since it was set up as a World Bank affiliate in 1960, and will enable the association to continue lending to the poorest developing countries on highly concessional terms from mid-1977 to mid-1980.

The agreement was reached after six rounds of meetings in two continents. The sum now available falls short of some early hopes. *Informally*, a target of $9,000m was mooted. But this goal depended on the willingness of some Middle East oil exporters, who have joined the IDA donors' club for the first time, to put up rather more money than they eventually did.

In the end, the rich traditional donors agreed to find $7,200m, with Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates contributing the balance. (Kuwait, as an old established donor, also contributed another $44m towards the $7,200m.)

The importance of the IDA is that it provides credits on 50-year repayment terms, bearing no interest, and only a nominal 0.75 or 1 per cent administrative charge. Its credits are therefore essential to many of the poorest countries who can least afford to borrow from other sources.

The IDA sprang originally from a recognition in the late 1950s that a number of developing countries had reached the limit of their capacity to service "hard debts", and that others—particularly the newer states in Africa—needed outright grants or interest-free loans to help in building their economies and providing acceptable minimum standards of living for their people.

Funds for the IDA come from five sources: the initial subscriptions of its rich members; *periodic replenishments*, which are by far the most important element; special contributions made by some members; transfers of money from its parent, the World Bank; and the IDA's own accumulated net income.

Britain's contribution to the fifth replenishment is $814.3m, or 10.7 per cent of the total compared with $499.5m or 11.1 per cent of the previous replenishment in 1974.

The successful conclusion of the Vienna agreement will almost certainly be used by the rich northern countries to take the sting out of Third World calls for a total moratorium on debt repayments. This is one of the demands the developing counties have been making at the North-South dialogue in Paris. Formally known as the Conference on International Economic Cooperation, these Paris talks have been deadlocked on this issue since the middle of last year.

Led by West Germany and the United States, the industrialized nations have remained hostile to the idea of such a moratorium, arguing instead that the large foreign trade deficits and escalating debts of the Third World should be dealt with by such institutions as the IDA, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Several schemes are now being discussed to increase the capital of the World Bank and increase the lending capacity of the IMF.

Whether the rich countries can convince the Third World that such schemes can be ready in time to rescue them from the consequences of their present deteriorating financial position will become clear only when the North-South discussions reconvene in Paris

Portisch through to world chess semi-final

Rotterdam, March 27.—Lajos Portisch of Hungary is through to the semi-finals of the world chess championship candidates tournament. He defeated his Danish opponent, Bert Larsen, in the tenth game of their quarter-final yesterday, to *obtain an unbeatable lead*

In Lucca, Viktor Korchnoi, the Russian grandmaster, now living in Holland, drew his tenth game against Tigran Petrosian, the Soviet former world champion. Korchnoi,

In Lucerne, Henrique Mecking of Brazil, who is losing 5-4 to Lev Polugaevsky of the Soviet Union, had a slight advantage when their tenth game was adjourned.—Reuter

New York loses another daily newspaper

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, March 27

The *Long Island Press*, a daily newspaper published in the New York borough of Queens, has announced that it is closing after 156 years of publication. It is the latest victim of shrinking readership in New York and the newspaper wars that have raged for several years.

The latest circulation figures gave it 260,000 readers on weekdays and 250,000 on Sundays. But these were about 100,000 less than five years ago, and the paper faced competition from *The New York Times*, the *Daily News* and the *New York Post*, as well as *Newsday*, the Long Island daily, all of which have been trying to expand their readership in Queens.

The closure means that 700 employees are out of work. Mr David Starr, the editor, said that an appeal had been made to the unions five years ago to abandon their feather-bedding, make work rules and "commit us to using new automated machinery without increasing our costs still more. Unfortunately, the unions could not see the wisdom of our appeal at that time."

The *Long Island Press* was a member of the Newhouse Group, a large newspaper chain. Mr Starr added that it had spoken out on civic causes for almost half a century, "but a fine newspaper can do good things only if it is economically secure."

The newspaper had made a great effort to survive, by investing almost $10m (£5.9m) in new equipment and enlarging its news, advertising and circulation staffs, he said.

"It was not enough. It is a pattern all too familiar in New York City. One by one, newspapers have disappeared. First, the dailies in Brooklyn and the Bronx, and then the *Evening Sun*, the *Mirror*, the *World Telegram*, *Journal American*, and the *Herald Tribune*."

One of the main factors was the flight of the middle class from the city, coupled with an increase in costs. At the same time the national recession, which lasted longer in New York than elsewhere, had forced a number of businesses to close and the survivors had reduced their advertising in the *Long Island Press*.

Law Report March 25 1977

Court of Appeal

Company owning 'work-in' factory not liable for rates

In re Briant Colour Printing Co Ltd (in liquidation)

Before Lord Justice Buckley, Lord Justice Scarman and Sir John Pennycuick.

[Judgments delivered March 22]

Where a company, the legal owner of a factory, was wrongfully and totally excluded by its former employees and the employees continuously remained and retained control of it for almost a year, the company was not in actual and exclusive occupation for the purposes of section 16 of the General Rate Act, 1967, and was not therefore liable for the payment of rates for that period. On the evidence, the former employees were in actual and exclusive occupation.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by Southwark London Borough Council from the refusal of Mr Justice Slade (*The Times*, November 26, 1976) to grant them a declaration that £14,703 general rates demanded from Briant Colour Printing Co Ltd (in liquidation) was an expense properly incurred by the liquidator in the *winding up of the company and* was properly payable out of the company's assets in priority to the claims of creditors in respect of debts incurred before the commencement of the liquidation.

Mr W. J. Glover, QC, and Viscount Colville of Culross for the council; Mr Donald Nicholls, QC, and Mr W. A. Blackburne for the liquidator.

LORD JUSTICE BUCKLEY said that the company, which carried on a printing business in the Old Kent Road, went into a creditors' voluntary liquidation on June 21, 1972. A liquidator, Mr Granville White, was appointed and he informed representatives of the employees that their employment was terminated. The former employees seized physical control of the factory, including all the plant and machinery, and retained control under the name of the Briant Colour Printing Joint Chapels Work-In, which was organized by the "Joint Chapels Work-In Committee". Their purpose was to keep the factory going as a working unit for the workers' benefit.

On June 22, the liquidator went to the factory gates, which were locked, and asked permission to enter from the committee chairman but was denied entrance. As a result, the sale of the factory as a going concern was delayed because vacant possession could not be guaranteed. The committee would agree to the sale only to a purchaser willing to employ former employees.

Possession orders were obtained against seven defendants in January, 1973, but they were not enforced because the liquidator feared that the enforcement would result in an industrial fracas and the destruction of valuable plant and machinery. On June 14 the company entered into a contract of sale with a purchaser acceptable to the committee, and there was no dispute as to who was to be rated after that date.

Who, if anyone, was liable for the general rates for the relevant period? Section 16 of the General Rate Act provided that "every occupier of property . . . shall be liable to be assessed to rates in respect of the hereditament or hereditaments comprising that property according to the rateable value . . . determined in accordance with the provisions of this Act". The Act contained no definition of occupier. The council contended that a person was an occupier notwithstanding that he was not in actual occupation if he was the owner of the legal hereditament. Lord Justice Tucker in *Laing Ltd v Kingswood Assessment Committee* ([1949] 1 KB 345, 350) referred to four essential ingredients of occupation: "First, there must be actual occupation; secondly, it must be exclusive for the particular purposes of the possession; thirdly, the possession must be of some value or benefit to the possessor; and fourthly, the possession must not be for too transient a period. . . ." But Lord Justice Tucker was only rehearsing counsel's contentions and did not intend to invest the four requirements with judicial authority.

The question was who was ratable. It was the person in actual possession of the property, which did not need to involve that person's physical presence on it. The council submitted that the company by its liquidator was in actual occupation because he was using the premises to store machinery and plant; but the liquidator was not retaining the factory for that purpose, nor was he allowed access to it. the committee or work-in were in actual occupation, not the liquidator.

If a hereditament was in use, then, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, the owner of the legal estate in the land was presumed to be in ratable occupation. That presumption could be rebutted by showing that someone other than the legal owner was in occupation: *Winstanley v North Manchester Overseers* ([1910] AC 7) and *Liverpool Corporation v Chorley Union Assessment and Withnell Overseers* ([1911] 1 KB 1057).

In the present case there was one hereditament—the factory—and that was listed in the valuation list. Had there been a concurrent user by both the liquidator and the work-in the situation would have been different; but there was no dominant or servient element of joint user. No two persons could be ratable in respect of one hereditament, but there might be cases where two persons made use of property, or there might be two hereditaments or two users of one hereditament. In the latter case one must discover which person was the paramount occupier.

There was no concurrent use in the present case, and the liquidator's use of the factory for housing the plant and completing work in hand did not amount to paramountcy. It was inconsistent with the state of affairs which existed because the liquidator was denied access and it was the work-in that was in full adverse possession. If on the evidence the owner was not in actual occupation he could not be assessable to rates.

The committee and work-in used the premises for printing purposes and were in beneficial occupation unless the liquidator was in occupation; but on the facts, he *manifestly was not. The presence of the* company's plant and machinery could not equate with occupation by the liquidator because it had been forcibly detained and wrongfully used by the work-in.

It was submitted for the council that the liquidator had a sufficient degree of control over the factory to give him actual and exclusive occupation because he could have brought proceedings for possession at any time against the trespassers. That contention was inconsistent with the principle that for at least three centuries an occupier of land could be made liable for the payment of rates even although he held no legal title to the land: *Rex v Bell* ((1798) 7 TR 598, 601).

On the evidence, it was established that the company was not in occupation of the factory and therefore could not be held liable to be rated in respect of it for the relevant period, and that was the end of the matter.

Mr Nicholls, however, submitted that either the committee or the work-in were in actual occupation.

The evidence was *sufficient* to conclude that there were some members of the committee present throughout the period, and some former employees working in the factory, though they could not be identified precisely. Where there was joint occupation of one hereditament, every joint occupier was liable for the payment of rates, and it was irrelevant if some workers had dropped out before the factory was sold.

Lord Justice Scarman agreed.

SIR JOHN PENNYCUICK, concurring in dismissing the the appeal, said that the single issue was whether the liquidator was in occupation of the factory. Section 16 rendered occupied property assessable to rates in respect of the hereditament. Whether the liquidator was in occupation was a straight forward question of fact. Mr Justic Slade was right in holding, on the evidence, that the work-in and the committee were in actual occupation and there was no question of any joint or concurrent occupation by both parties, nor any evidence of distinct physical use existing side by side. On the contrary, the liquidator had been totally excluded.

There was no presumption that a legal owner was in "ratable" occupation unless it could be proved that someone else was in "ratable" occupation. The true statement of the law was made by Lord Atkinson in the *Winstanley* case: owners in possession were prima facie occupiers unless it could be shown that the occupation was in someone else. That was an *inference rebuttable by evidence* that the owner was not in occupation. The presumption, formulated by counsel was derived from the modern cases, *Andrews v Hereford RDC* (10RRCI) and *Liverpool Corporation v Huyton-with-Roby* (ibid 257). It was not to be found in any of the earlier cases, nor was it to be implied from any statutory provision.

The words "rateable occupation" radically altered Lord Atkinson's statement. There was no doubt that the *Andrews* decision was correct on its facts, but it was dubious if the Divisional Court's decision in the *Liverpool* case was correct on the facts once the presumption was properly understood. Mr Justice Widgery (at page 262) said: "One is I think entitled to follow what Lord Atkinson said in the *Winstanley* case and apply a presumption that an owner is in ratable occupation if he derives a benefit from his ownership and no other person is shown to be in ratable occupation."

"Ratable" crept into that sentence twice before "occupation" and, with due deference to the Divisional Court, the word should not be there because it altered the sense of earlier statements. On the view taken, no question arose as to the remaining ingredients specified in the *Laing* case.

On the evidence, the work-in and committee were certainly in occupation. If the question became material as to whether all or any of the members should or should not be held to be in "ratable occupation", the answer would be in the affirmative for the reasons given by Lord Justice Buckley.

Solicitors: Mr John Parker; F. Prior & Co.

No power to vary transfer order

Nikoloff v Nikoloff

Mr Justice Latey, in the Family Division, giving judgment in open court after a hearing in chambers, refused a wife's application to vary a transfer of property order by extinguishing a charge of £2,250 on the former matrimonial home in the husband's favour, on the ground that the court had no power under section 31 of the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1973, to vary a transfer of property order.

HIS LORDSHIP said that after a divorce in 1975 the registrar ordered the husband to transfer to the wife all his interest in the former matrimonial home subject to the husband's charge of £2,250 and that the property was not to be sold until the youngest boy was 17 or the wife remarried. A few months later the husband went to the house with a gun and had shot dead a police sergeant, an ambulanceman and a woman friend of the wife. His pleas of guilty to manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility were accepted and he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

It was that conduct which led to the summonses to vary the transfer of property order and the appeal out of time from the registrar's order. The summons to vary could not succeed if Parliament had enjoined the court in considering capital and capital assets to make orders which were final and not subject to variation.

It had been submitted that the court could extend the time for appealing, take into account the husband's conduct in 1975, and then vary the order in the wife's favour. To use the procedural power of the court to extend the time for an appeal as a device for entertaining an application to vary based on a change of circumstances since making the final order would be a wrong exercise of discretion because it would defeat the clear enactment of Parliament.

However, leave would be given to appeal out of time and allow the appeal in part. The embargo on the sale of the property until the youngest boy was 17 should never have been included and it would be deleted subject to safeguarding the husband's future right to £2,250.

25 years ago

From The Times of Thursday, March 27, 1952

French policy in Tunisia has appeared in recent months to pursue two divergent courses. The search for a means of reconciling the requirements of the French interest in North Africa with the claims of Tunisian national feeling has gone on almost continuously and has still not been abandoned. Yet from time to time the French Government appears violently to interrupt its own work by a decided step in the opposite direction. No doubt can exist that the action of the Resident General, M de Hauteclocque, on Tuesday is such a step. M de Hauteclocque, acting on the careful instructions of the French Cabinet, presented to the Bey new proposals for a reform of the system of government; but he prefaced them with the condition that the Bey should dismiss his ministers on the ground that they are responsible for the present unrest in the country. The Bey has apparently refused; in the following night the Prime Minister and several members of his cabinet were removed from the capital under arrest. Martial law and a curfew are being enforced.

A Times Profile

The Treasury

Bank manager and probation officer rolled into one

Photograph by Harry Kerr

● From left to right: ● Sir Derek Mitchell, Second Permanent Secretary Over seas Finance. ● Alan Lord, Second Permanent Secretary Domestic Economy. ● The Chancellor, Denis Healey ● Sir Douglas Wass, Permanent Secretary to Treasury ● Sir Bryan Hopkin, Chief Economic Adviser. ● Mr Leo Pliatzky, Second Permanent Secretary Public Services. ● Mr Joel Barnett, Chief Secretary.

British economic policy is made in a literally symmetrical fashion. The Treasury's four ministers, five permanent secretaries and seven deputy secretaries all sit two floors up above Parliament Square around an inner courtyard. The Circle, as it is called, is truly *the* commanding height of the British economy. A visitor in the labyrinth of corridors and staircases that make up Treasury Chambers can tell when he is there from the thick, shiny, red linoleum, the artery of inter-Treasury communication.

There have been countless newspaper articles on Britain's inadequate economic performance since 1945. Apart from the trail-blazing work of the inimitable Mr Samuel Brittain, however, relatively little attention has been devoted to Treasury men themselves, except for periodic attempts to show that they all read Greats at Christ Church and were unsuitable, therefore, to become anything but district commissioners in Kenya, a view as untrue as it was fatuous.

At the risk of seeming eccentric on Budget-eve, it is instructive to put policy in second place for a moment and look instead at the kind of men who sit around the Circle, celebrating and, from time to time, prodding a stubbornly sluggish economy. Do they occasionally despair, like the rest of us, about our ever getting it right? How much responsibility do they accept for the nation's economic decline? What are the limits they place on their advice to ministers? Do they trust their own forecasts of future economic performance? What kind of rows do they have with each other? How do they respond to public criticism and the suspicions of ministers?

The first impression from all but living with Treasury men in recent weeks is that they are far from monolithic in their views and backgrounds and almost as sceptical about their efforts as the more sensible of their critics. About economic forecasting, for example, their humility is positively Uriah Heepish. In this, they take their lead from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Healey, who has never concealed his view that economic predictions are about as reliable as long-range weather forecasts and that on the whole, running the economy is more like gardening than operating a computer".

One of the forecasters' chief clients remarks: "I don't believe young men at their figures right. I don't have much faith in computers." The model-builders themselves spend a great deal of time reminding their superiors that their past predictions of the British economy have been between two and four per cent out on critical matters like the size of gross domestic product, the level of exports, imports and investment. The prime justification offered for forecasting by the economist with ultimate responsibility for the Treasury's huge, complicated model is that it stops eccentric decisions being taken on the basis of personal hunch by those at the top of the hierarchy, and likens it to a flywheel which prevents policymakers from being thrown by the pressure of unexpected events. It would seem that the art of the Treasury man is not to be a reeder of cybernetic printouts. "What you need here, as at the top of any large organization, is people who are likely to make good judgments on impossibly contradictory sets of facts", said one. "It's all to do with insights", said another. "It's the relationships between lots of figures. You are really good in the Civil Service when you can do these things under pressure, relating them to wider horizons."

The last image Treasury men wish to project is that of soulless "number crunchers". But they do talk a good deal about "professionalism" and take great pains to dispel the aura of gifted amateurism. Members of the Government Economic Service are "bedded out" to work alongside administrators in the policy divisions. They are encouraged to keep up with the latest thinking in their field, "though I wouldn't want my young men to spend too much time on the lunatic fringe", said one of the Treasury's top five.

One economist, who has shuttled between the universities and the Treasury since the late 1940s, says the place is vastly recognizable when compared with prewar days: "The difference at the levels in economic sophistication is quite tremendous. This is an intensely intellectual place. Everybody is interested in principles. We *are* economic thinkers."

As Whitehall departments go, the Treasury is very free from hierarchy. It is all Christian names and young men being encouraged to speak, as Mr Roy Jenkins once observed when comparing Great George Street with the Home Office, the other great department of state in which he had served as political head. Problem cracking in ad hoc teams, involving, very often, the Inland Revenue and the Bank of England as well, seems to be the style these days.

But on two facts Treasury men think as one: that 1976 was for them a pig of a year with their perpetual headaches made more acute by the country's desperately weak external position; and that they bent but did not break under the strain. Sir Harold Wilson has probably devalued the Dunkirk metaphor for ever, but it is the best one to apply to HM Treasury last year.

A deputy secretary in one of its most exposed beachheads dealing with incomes policy, taxation and monetary matters, likes to talk about the past two years in terms of weaponry: "First that pay/tax deal appeared on the horizon like a tank. Hardly had that one been dealt with than another tank arrived marked 'Professor Milton Friedman'. Both tanks—tax, pay and monetary policy have been here ever since. Now 'differentials' is the cry. Incomes policy is a frail craft. The Treasury has always given warnings about the risk of putting extra luggage on it."

But it is not just a matter of cheerfully muddling through and uniting in the face of external onslaughts. Treasury men on the second floor, who have been in the department since returning from the war, are good at thinking aloud about the intractable aspects of Britain's postwar economic performance and the degree to which they can "turn it round" however skilled or consistent their advice to ministers.

The most doomish of the Treasury's "Big Five" is highly philosophical about the limits to policy advice: "There are very deep-seated problems that can only be affected at the margins by the policy instruments the government wields. It is arguable that with less 'stop-go' and lower rates of personal income tax, we might have got a better performance. But I think it would have been pretty marginal. We have a body economic that has not functioned well. This may have something to do with the nature of our society, including the nature of the educational system, with the value we set by finance rather than industry and the public esteem we give our engineers. The City has preempted a lot of managerial talent as the colonial empire did and the Civil Service, to some extent, still does.

"These are not primarily government matters. Society has to change its attitudes, but government can do a great deal by moral leadership. The question I continually ask myself is how much could government policy have wrought a fundamental change in Britain's economic position since the war in the way that the Commissariat du Plan helped to do in France? The industrial strategy is a response to these thoughts."

Such reflections hardly square with the arrogance and hauteur traditionally attributed to Treasury men. But an outsider might suspect that they have been overdoing the gloom a bit of late, almost as a delayed reaction to the traumas of last year, especially when the most ebullient and irrepressible of their permanent secretaries, who gives the impression of having eaten a tin of razor blades and two ministers for breakfast, comes out with the remark that: "I tell my young men you can win 'only on the firm foundation of unyielding despair', as Bertrand Russell put it."

The face the Treasury presents to the outside world is naturally very different from the way it runs itself internally. Sir Douglas Wass, its top permanent secretary, a quiet, Cambridge mathematician, who joined the Treasury after a war spent inventing new techniques of mine detection for the Admiralty, is a firm believer in collective leadership, a principle he enshrined in his 1975 reorganization of the department.

The traditional problem of the Treasury Number One has been to unify and coordinate the powerful and often conflicting interests reflected in his policy divisions. The historically minded talk of feudal satrapies, an analogue that makes other Treasury men wince, but a good one. Sir Douglas (the Treasury a few years ago was brimming with men called Douglas and the *Financial Times* invented a collective personality for them which they called "Sir Douglas Corridor") reconciles his barons every Thursday morning at his Policy Coordinating Committee, the PCC, nicknamed the "Peoples' Congress" or "Parochial Church Council" by its more waggish attenders.

Papers for the PCC are produced by a committee of staff officers of under-secretary rank, dubbed "The Colonels" for obvious reasons, but properly known as the Macro-Economic Policy Group. They meet every Monday under the chairmanship of Mr John Isaac, who runs Sir Douglas's Central Unit. The unit is his eyes and ears within the department. Admiring outsiders see his use of the unit and the "Colonels" as the key to Sir Douglas's success in being *primus inter pares* in a department that has never been short of overmighty subjects. The central unit is also the key body in the preparation of large presentations like the annual Budget and occasional "packages" of additional measures.

One of the first actions of Sir Douglas Wass on succeeding Sir Douglas Allen in 1974 was to reinforce Treasury practice whereby disagreements were to be ventilated and not suppressed. The PCC, therefore, is often the occasion for vigorous dialectics bluntly expressed, with Overseas Finance ("the winged messenger bringing gloomy reports", as its principal Mercury likes to put it) telling the Public Services Sector just what Britain's foreign creditors will or will not take, and so on.

If the dispute is too deep to be resolved at the PCC, Sir Douglas Wass minutes the Chancellor, naming the disputants and elaborating their disagreements. The argument is then carried on before the Chancellor in his magnificent room overlooking King Charles Street. By all accounts, heterodoxy can break out in the august councils of the PCC. The alternative strategy of import controls and a siege economy was fought out there last year, particularly before the departure of Professor Lord Kaldor, Mr Healey's special adviser.

Where Treasury men, ministers and other parts of Whitehall disagree is over what happens to economic policy after the dialectical stage of the PCC has been passed. Some argue that the Treasury is just too good at keeping disputes within itself, disputes that are so fundamental to government strategy that they should be argued out not just in the PCC, which ministers do not attend, but in the Cabinet itself. This contention lies at the heart of the case for breaking up the Treasury into a spending ministry and a finance ministry, a split, its proponents believe, that would better reflect the more collective manner in which Labour Cabinets have come to take major economic decisions.

It would appear from talking to some of the Treasury's "top hamper" that the department exercises its own version of collective responsibility akin to that of the Cabinet: "The PCC is a two-stage process with unbridled discussion and everybody saying what he likes. But when it gets to the crunch, you have in effect weighted voting. The second permanent secretaries and the deputy secretaries are there because they are presumed to have better overall judgment than the line man. There is an absolutely binding convention, which has never been breached, that argument is free up to the time the Chancellor makes up his mind. Then all the energy goes into securing what the Chancellor wants."

Another PCC member explained that there was no alternative to this and that it operated on interdepartmental matters, like incomes policy, as well: "It's the old Civil Service consensus technique—never stop trying to agree. It's our job to minimize differences. You can call it a fix, but I regard it as what we are paid for. It is our task to make collective responsibility work. If we didn't, there would be chaos or we would have to turn into politicoes. That would maximize differences all right."

Others, including, one suspects, the Chancellor, would contend that the Treasury no longer tries to keep the options unto itself while presenting a united front to the rest of Whitehall. Treasury discussion invariably leads to a set of alternative policy options which the Chancellor himself often displays in papers put before the Cabinet. It is then left to ministers to argue it out either at the fortnightly meeting of the Cabinet's Economic Strategy Committee, chaired by the Prime Minister, or at full Cabinet. Making a judgment on this matter is virtually impossible for an outsider, but it is the key to the internal Whitehall debate about the future power, size and shape of the Treasury.

The Treasury's present set of ministers, the customers of the "fliers" billeted around the Circle, say that, first and foremost, they want their civil servants to place all the facts before them. The Chief Secretary, Mr Joel Barnett, likes to be briefed, for example, on the case for more spending that will be put up against him by other departments during the annual cycle of the public expenditure survey.

The Chancellor insists on the issues being argued out in front of him—"like the early Soviets in 1917", he says—before taking the decisions himself. Such an approach is vital in a ministry which Sir Stafford Cripps, the iron Chancellor of the austere 1940s, likened to a barrister's chambers with "little task forces that only meet in the canteen", as one of today's insiders puts it.

Inevitably, one aspect or another of Treasury work is always in contention. Not only is it the most political of departments with an interest in every aspect of government activity, as its former head, Sir Edward Bridges used to say, but its responsibilities lie at the very heart of the country's past failures and future anxieties. This produces in successive generations of Treasury men an attitude of cheerful resignation to being abused for what they regard as their virtues.

Morale has improved of late, however. Cash limits have induced the feeling that spending is once more under control. The new financial information system for monitoring spending profiles each month to be applied to all government departments during the next financial year (run by a turret full of computer experts above the Treasury rooftops under one of its most promising assistant secretaries) should take that process a step farther.

Provided ministers do not lose their resolve, the Treasury need not fear any more headlines of the "Lost £5,000m" variety stimulated by the evidence of Mr Wynne Godley, one of its former forecasters, before the Commons Expenditure Committee.

The time-honoured criticism that Treasury men deal only with other government departments and never with that mythical entity, the "real world", has partly been answered by the new Domestic Economy Sector which emerged from the 1975 reorganization. Its control of the Industrial Strategy Staff Group places it at the centre of the Government's nuts and bolts attempt to regenerate industry from the ground up.

They do have an incentive to "get it right" if they can. As one of the Treasury's public expenditure men put it: "Our work is an endless, bloody grind. There is no glamour in it. If they are to have any motivation at all, my chaps have got to feel they are winning." There is an element of defiance, too, particularly in Overseas Finance which bore the brunt of criticism during the collapse of the currency last year: "From a professional standpoint, you can only do your best. If you are, blow the critics!"

Venerable institution though it is, with roots going back to William the Conqueror's Henry the Treasurer, the Treasury is a noticeably human organism, surprisingly, perhaps justifiably, self-critical of late. But scratch a Treasury man and the old Gladstonian sense of moral purpose comes shining through, not in the parsimonious, cheeseparing sense, but in a manner which portrays them as the nation's bank manager and probation officer rolled into one. In this mood, they quote Sir Bruce Fraser, a former colleague who told the old Estimates Committee they exist "in order to curtail the natural consequences of human nature". For all its pomposity, there is a kind of nobility about that.

Peter Hennessy

SPORT

Table tennis

England women keep hopes alive

By Richard Streeton

Courageous recoveries by Jill Hammersley against Czechoslovakia and by Carole Knight against Romania, compensated yesterday for other English disappointments at Birmingham when the world table tennis championships, sponsored by the Norwich Union, continued with the second day of the team events.

Mrs Hammersley and Miss Knight ensured that England won two of their three matches in the Corbillon Cup, and with four wins and one defeat so far still retain a slight chance of reaching the semi-final round. England's men, however, were predictably outclassed 5—0 by China in the Swaythling Cup.

England led Czechoslovakia 2—1 when Mrs Hammersley, the European champion, met Ilona Uhlikova, ranked thirteenth in the world, in the deciding set. Mrs Hammersley won the first game 21—17 and led 8—1 in the second before becoming erratic. A stubbed toe against a table leg did not help her and she lost the game 18—21.

In the third game she was 5-12 behind but had pulled up to 16-17 when the 15 minute time limit was reached and the expedite rule invoked. Under this rule, players serve alternately and the server has to win the point within 12 more strokes should the rally last that long. This never arose: Mrs Hammersley hit a magnificent backhand flick to the corner to move ahead 19-18, followed with an unstoppable smash before Mrs Uhlikova finally hit out too deep.

Earlier Miss Knight was mainly responsible for England's 3—2 win against the strong Romanian team. First she unexpectedly defeated the experienced Maria Alexandru in the opening singles and then, far more vitally, clinched the match in the last set by a dramatic comeback. Miss Knight was 9—18 down in the first game against Liana Mihat but recovered to win 7—21, 21—14, 21—19.

In a desperate gamblers' throw, Miss Knight resorted to a chop service and all out attack with looped drives at every moment possible. Miss Mihat was rattled into net returns and over-hits. The Romanian was serving at 19—19 when first she was wide with a stop shot and then an ambitious, if brave smash, went wildly off target.

England's men waiting on the bench glumly to play China resembled mourners in a pew wearing track suits. Yielding in advance to the inevitable, England omitted the seasoned Denis Neale to give the teenaged Andrew Barden and Paul Day experience. Both 18-year-olds battled with determination, more so, frankly, than Desmond Douglas, the England No 1. He tried desperately but made little effort to hide both his admiration and bewilderment as Kuo Yao-Hua and later Huang Liang went through their repertoire of high and low services, varied spin and exciting counter-attacks.

With play lasting 15 hours and more a day over 30 tables at the vast National Exhibition Centre, the group placings fluctuate regularly. Already, however, there have been few upsets. In the Swaythling Cup Czechoslovakia or Hungary seem certain to join China as semi-finalists from one of the top groups. The other was thrown more open by the 5—4 success completed by Japan against Yugoslavia

Swaythling Cup

GROUP 1A: West Germany 5, France 1; Hungary 5, England 1 (T. Kirtlar lost to P. Day 13—21, 21—23; G. Gergely beat D. Douglas 21—11, 21—14; I. J. Jonyer beat D. Neale 21—19, 10—21, 21—16; Klampar beat Douglas 21—11, 21—14, 21—16; Mongyor beat P. Day 21—19, 21—17; Gergely beat Neale 21—17, 16—21, 21—15). China 5, Australia 0 (China 5, Indonesia 0; Czechoslovakia 5, Indonesia 0; Czechoslovakia 5, England 1 (M. Orlowski beat D. Neale 21—14, 21—2; J. Dvorak lost to D. Douglas 14—21, 21—17, 21—1; J. Kunz beat P. Day 21—18, 21—14; Orlowski beat Douglas 21—16, 20—22, 21—17; Kunz beat Neale 21—5, 21—18; Dvorak beat Day 21—18, 21—11).

China 5, England 0 (Huang Ling beat A. Barden 21—16, 21—13; Kuo Yao-Hua beat D. Douglas 21—14, 21—11; Li Chen Shih beat P. Day 21—15, 21—8; Huang Ling beat Douglas 21—16, 21—9; Li Chen Shih beat Barden 21—12, 21—16). West Germany 5, Australia 0; Indonesia 5, Australia 2; Hungary 5, West Germany 1; Czechoslovakia 5, France 1.

GROUP 2A: Bulgaria 5, Netherlands 4; Italy 5, Israel 2; Canada 5, Iran 1; Italy 5, Switzerland 0; Canada 5, Singapore 1; Netherlands 5, Israel 1; Italy 5, Canada 1; Netherlands 5, Switzerland 0; Iran 5, Singapore 0; India 5, Israel 0.

GROUP 3A: Finland 5, Turkey 2, Finland 5, Barbados 1; Turkey 5, Brazil 2; Turkey 5, Guernsey 0.

GROUP 1B: Sweden 5, Denmark 0; Japan 5, Romania 0; Yugoslavia 5, Poland 1; Sweden 5, Poland 0; USSR 5, Denmark 0.

Japan 5, Yugoslavia 4; Sweden 5, Romania 0; Yugoslavia 5, Denmark 0; USSR 5, Poland 3; Japan 5, South Korea 2; Yugoslavia 5, Romania 0.

GROUP 2B: Hongkong 5, Egypt 0; Luxembourg 5, Bulgaria 4.

United States 5, Egypt 5; Greece 5, Malaysia 1; Austria 5, Egypt 0; Belgium 5, Malaysia 3; Luxembourg 5, United States 5; Hongkong 5, Greece 1; Austria 5, Luxembourg 1; Hongkong 5, Belgium 1; United States 5, Greece 4; Scotland 5, Malaysia 0.

L. Sutherland lost to Lee Chung Kil, 1—21, 16—21; R. Yule beat Kok Chong Fait 21—9, 21—19; J. McNee lost to Keong Tah Seng, 18—21, 21—19, 12—21; Yule beat Lee Chung Kil, 21—15, 21—17; Sutherland lost to Keong Tah Seng, 13—21, 10—21; McNee beat Kok Chong Fait, 21—7, 21—11; Yule beat Keong Tah Seng, 21—19, 21—9; McNee beat Lee Chung Kil, 21—14, 21—14.

GROUP 3B: Jersey 5, Ecuador 4

Ireland 5, Jersey 0 (A. Cairns beat F. Bougeard 21—18, 21—10; T. Caffrey beat C. Bansford 21—11, 21—10; K. Keane beat B. Gallichan 21—17, 22—23; Caffrey beat Bougeard 21—19, 21—19; Cairns beat Gallichan 21—7, 21—12; Ireland 5, Ecuador 0. A. Cairns beat G. Rizulos, 21—17, 21—7; T. Caffrey beat A. Galvez, 21—7, 21—10; K. Keane beat G. Ulloa, 21—19, 21—16; Caffrey beat Rizulos, 21—14, 21—10; Cairns beat Ulloa, 21—14, 21—10.

GROUP 3C: Trinidad & Tobago 5, Cyprus 0.

Wales 5, Tunisia 0 (A. Griffiths beat S. Donhuhan 21—18, 21—16; G. Davies 21—9, 21—13; M. Owen beat T. Ben Ali 15—21, 22—20, 21—16; Davies beat Doghman 21—17, 21—13; Griffiths beat Ben Ali 21—12, 21—18. Morgan 5, Trinidad & Tobago 0; Wales 5 Iceland 0 (M. Owen beat B. Adalsteinson 21—13, 21—15; Griffiths beat H. Halfdanarson 21—6, 21—7; G. Davies beat K. Hagnarsson 21—4, 21—9; Owen beat Halfdanarson 21—13, 21—13; Davies beat Adalsteinson 21—5, 21—16. Norway 5, Cyprus 0.

GROUP 3D: Spain 5, Chile 0; New Zealand 5, Bangladesh 0.

Spain 5, Bangladesh 0; Jamaica 5, Chile 0; Chile 5, Bangladesh 0; New Zealand 5, Mexico 0

Corbillon Cup

GROUP 1A: England 3, Bulgaria 0 (J. Hammersley beat E. Nedkova 21—14, 21—19; L. Howard beat A. Hanouslova 23—19, 21—13; J. Hammersley and L. Howard beat E. Nedkova and A. Hanouslova 21—15, 21—16); Hungary 5, Belgium 0; North Korea 3, Romania 1; Sweden 3, Czechoslovakia 2; England 3, Sweden 1 (C. Knight lost to A. Hellman 14—21, 14—21; J. Hammersley beat C. Bromvall 21—18, 21—12; L. Howard and J. Hammersley beat A. Hellman and B. Gillion 21—13, 21—11; J. Hammersley beat A. Hellman 22—20, 21—11); China 3, Belgium 0; Czechoslovakia 3, Romania 1.

China 3, Bulgaria 0; Hungary 3, Sweden 0; England 3, Romania 0 (C. Knight beat M. Alexandru 19—21, 21—18; J. Hammersley lost to L. Mihut 19—21, 17—21; L. Howard and J. Hammersley lost to M. Alexandru and L. Mihut 16—21, 11—21; J. Hammersley beat M. Alexandru 21—7, 21—13; C. Knight beat L. Mihut 7—21, 21—14, 21—19); North Korea 3, Finland 0 (Pak Yong Ok beat K. Knight 21—14, 16—21, 21—8; Pak Yong Sun beat J. Hammersley 12—21, 22—20; Pak Yong Sun and Kim Chang Ai beat L. Howard and J. Hammersley 21—19, 21—19); China 3, Sweden 0; Bulgaria 3, Belgium 0; North Korea 3, Czechoslovakia 1; England 3, Czechoslovakia 1 (J. Hammersley beat B. Sihavova 14—21, 21—19, 21—19; C. Knight lost to I. Uhlikova 12—20, 21—23, 16—21; J. Hammersley and L. Howard beat B. Sihavova and I. Uhlikova 21—13, 21—16; J. Hammersley beat I. Uhlikova 21—17, 18—21, 21—18); Sweden 3, Romania 1; N Korea 3, Hungary 2.

GROUP 2A: India beat Scotland, 3—2, S. Salokhe beat P. Fleming, 19—21, 21—13, 21—16; V. Punt lost to G. McKay, 22—7, 17—21; U. Sonderval and S. Salokhe beat P. Fleming and G. McKay, 21—10, 21—19; S. Salokhe lost to G. McKay, 22—20, 16—21, 18—21; V. Punt beat P. Fleming, 21—11, 21—16. Netherlands beat Greece, 3—1; US beat Australia, 3—1. USA beat Scotland, 3—0. In-Sook Bushin beat P. Fleming, 21—12, 21—10; A. Rogli beat G. McKay, 16—21, 21—9, 21—15; A-G. Sonag and J. Bochenski beat P. Fleming and G. McKay, 18—21, 22—20, 21—16.

Canada beat Greece, 3—2; Netherlands beat Australia, 3—1.

Canada beat Australia, 3—0; India beat Greece, 3—1; Netherlands beat United States, 3—2. Netherlands 3, Scotland 0: M. van de Vliet beat G. McKay 21—14, 21—10; B. Vriesekoop beat G. Dallymore 21—9, 21—17; M. van de Vliet and B. Vriesekoop beat G. McKay and P. Fleming 21—5, 21—18. United States 3, Canada 0. India 3, Australia 1.

GROUP 3A: Chile 3, Guernsey 1; Ireland 3, Palestine 0. K. Senior beat S. Mingo, 21—2, 21—7; A. Leonard beat A. Daher, 21—3, 21—5; M. Ryan and A. Leonard beat L. Dangerfield and A. Daher, 21—3, 21—10. Bermuda 3, Guernsey 0.

Turkey 3, Chile 0; Denmark 3, Chile 0.

GROUP 1B: Japan 3, Indonesia 0; USSR 3, Hongkong 1; France 3, W Germany 2; South Korea 3, Indonesia 0; France 3, Yugoslavia 2; Japan 3, Poland 0.

South Korea 3, Hongkong 0; USSR 3, France 0; Japan 3, Poland 1; W Germany 3, Yugoslavia 2; Japan 3, France 0; Hongkong 3, Indonesia 0; Japan 3, W Germany 0; S Korea 3, France 0; USSR 3, Yugoslavia 1; USSR 3, W Germany 1; Poland 3, Indonesia 0.

GROUP 2B: Malaysia 3, Austria 2; NZ 3, Singapore 2; Switzerland 3, Brazil 2; NZ 3, Switzerland 0; Luxembourg 3, Brazil 0; Austria 1, Singapore 1.

Luxembourg 3, NZ 1; Malaysia 3, Brazil 0; Switzerland 3, Singapore 2; Luxembourg 3, Singapore 0; Malaysia 3, NZ 0; Austria 3, Switzerland 0.

GROUP 3B: Italy 3, Palestine 0; Trinidad 3, Egypt 1; Trinidad 3, Italy 0.

Ireland 3, Trinidad 1. K. Senior beat L. Bhaiya, 21—10, 21—19; A. Leonard lost to N. Abdool, 13—21, 15—21; K. Senior and M. Ryan beat N. Abdool and A. Bhaiya, 21—17, 21—17; K. Senior beat N. Abdool, 21—19, 21—7. Italy beat Egypt, 3—1. Ireland 3, Egypt 1. K. Senior beat O. Gharbi, 21—14, 21—11; A. Leonard lost to N. Kamal, 15—21, 18—21; K. Senior and A. Leonard beat O. Gharbi and N. Kamal, 21—17, 21—15; A. Leonard lost to O. Gharbi, 17—21, 21—21, 11—21; K. Senior beat N. Kamal, 21—19, 21—12. Trinidad 3, Palestine 0.

GROUP 3C: Finland 3, Ecuador 0. Spain 3, Ecuador 0; Ecuador 3, Ireland 0; Finland 3, Spain 0.

GROUP 3D: Jamaica 3, Wales 0. A. Reinayta beat V. Duffin, 21—11, 21—12; I. Walker beat S. Wheatley, 21—10, 21—18; A. Reinayta and I. Walker beat V. Duffin and K. Wheatley, 21—14, 19—21, 21—16. Mexico 3, Norway 2. Wales 3, R. Sorensen beat K. Wheatley, 21—15, 21—6; B. Paulson beat V. Duffin, 21—14, 21—10; Hundleson beat K. Wheatley and V. Duffin, 21—18, 21—14. Jamaica 3, Iran 2. Wales beat Iran 3—1. K. Wheatley beat M. Amiry, 21—13, 12—21, 18—21; V. Duffin lost to N. Mohagerd, 18—21, 16—21, 16—21; K. Wheatley and V. Duffin beat N. Kilisadi and R. Alaei 21—18, 21—19; K. Wheatley beat N. Mohagerd, 21—17, 22—20. Jamaica beat Norway, 3—1.

Squash rackets

Leading Pakistanis watch instead of play

By Rex Bellamy

Squash Rackets Correspondent

The British Open Squash Rackets championship, sponsored by Lucas Industries at Wembley, has been reduced to 16 players. Barrington, Easter, Leslie and O'Connor (two professionals and two amateurs) survived to represent the host nation against four Australians, four Egyptians, two New Zealand amateurs, a Pakistani and a South African.

This unusual assembly arises from the fact that the leading Pakistanis, balked by a government who do not want them to play games with South Africans, are practising, or watching rather than taking part. Another unusual feature is that professionals beaten in the first round will receive more prize money than tennis players did at Wimbledon last year.

The bad news for Britain was that the only seed beaten was a Walsall professional, Patterson. The good news was that the man who beat him was a Lewisham amateur, O'Connor, aged 22, whose present form is better than his ninth place in the national amateur rankings suggests it should be. Patterson won the first and third games, was 8—5 up in the second, and could therefore reflect that he might have won in straight games. Instead he lost in five (the fourth was close and disputatious, the fifth was an anti-climax).

Leslie, who survived a match point against Helal on Saturday, was much more impressive in disposing of Kvant—who, last December, came within two points of beating him in the British amateur event. Yesterday their first game took 32 minutes and they burst a ball on the way. But 15 minutes later Leslie had won 9—7, 9—0, 9—0. In the arduous first game the tactical authority usually lay with Britain's leading amateur. The Swede had to work terribly hard to stay with him and was never the same player again.

Hough, a lively newcomer from Somerset, came back from 5—8 down in the fifth game to beat Aly on Saturday and played equally well yesterday, though inevitably he had little to show for it against Hunt, the holder. Hunt's father will play Leslie's in the over-55 event tomorrow, which presumably means that each will have the benefit of a seeded player as intergame adviser. Barrington, whose last wins over Hunt, jnr, were in 1972 and 1975, may confront him again on Saturday.

FIRST ROUND: S. Patterson beat N. Preston, 9—0, 9—7, 9—5; W. Skinner (Australia) beat P. Tibbs, 9—1, 9—0, 9—3; C. Roy beat D. Morgan (Canada), 9—2, 9—0, 9—2; K. Bruce-Lockhart (Scotland) beat W. Oakley (South Africa), 9—5, 9—4, 9—5; J. O'Connor beat P. Millman, 9—1, 9—2, 9—1; K. Sherwood (Australia) beat D. Mason, 9—2, 9—7, 9—1; P. Hollstrom (Sweden) beat T. Mabbitt, 9—7, 9—5, 9—7, 9—0; J. Barrington (Ireland) beat E. Berry (US), 9—5, 9—5, 9—7; A. Kaoud (Egypt) beat P. White, 9—7, 9—3, 9—0; I. Robinson beat I. Din (India), 9—0, 9—1, 9—1; J. Easter beat M. M'Fan (Nigeria), 9—2, 9—0, 9—1; A. Hough beat S. Aly (Egypt), 9—0, 9—9, 9—5, 10—9; A. Chan beat P. Kirton, 9—6, 9—4, 9—5; B. Brownlee (NZ) beat W. Andruss (US), 9—2, 9—2, 9—1; H. Watson (SA) beat D. Williams (Australia), 9—1, 9—6, 9—3; A. Safwat (Egypt) beat N. Gittin (RAF), 9—0, 9—1, 9—0; L. Leslie beat L. Kvant (Sweden), 9—7, 9—0, 9—0; Romaullah Khan beat Mohamed Khalifa (Egypt), 9—1, 9—0; Aly Aly (Egypt) beat R. Shaw (SA), 9—1, 9—1, 9—1; J. Leslie beat M. Helal (Egypt), 9—6, 4—9, 9—10, 9—7, 10—9; L. Kvant (Sweden) beat R. Thorne (Australia), 9—1, 9—0, 9—1; L. Lohner (Sweden) beat M. Grundy, 9—1, 9—1, 9—1, 10—8; K. Hiscoe (Australia) beat D. Pennington (Jersey), 9—1, 9—1, 9—3, 9—7; M. Dilley (NZ) beat C. French, 9—4, 9—5, 9—1; R. Kahn beat P. Wright, 9—1, 9—3, 9—1; M. Khalifa (Egypt) beat M. Thurgur, 1—9, 9—1, 10—9, 9—0; M. Awad (Egypt) beat H. Nassef (Egypt), 9—1, 9—4; H. Colburn (SA) beat A. Swift, 9—7, 9—1, 9—6; M. Asran (Egypt) beat B. Bostrom (Sweden), 9—0, 9—6, 9—0; F. Donnelly (Australia) beat J. Le Lievre (Guernsey), 9—6, 6—9, 10—9, 10—9; A. Aziz (Egypt) beat G. Buckwood (NZ), 9—1, 9—1, 9—1; B. Pearson beat G. Allan (Egypt), 9—6, 9—0, 9—0; C. Nancarrow (Australia) beat C. Hudpolt, 9—3, 9—1, 10—8.

SECOND ROUND: G. Hunt (Australia) beat A. Hough, 9—1, 9—3, 9—5; B. O'Connor beat S. Patterson, 9—5, 10—9, 9—7, 9—5; K. Sherwood (Australia) beat H. Hollstrom (Sweden), 9—1, 9—2, 9—2; B. Brownlee (NZ) beat Amullah Khan, 9—0, 9—7, 9—5, retired; J. Barrington (Ireland) beat W. Skinner (Australia), 9—1, 9—1, 9—1; A. Kaoud (Egypt) beat C. Row, 9—5, 9—7, 9—0; H. Watson (SA) beat J. Robinson, 9—2, 9—1, 10—8; J. Easter beat K. Bruce-Lockhart (Scotland), 9—0, 9—1, 9—2; M. Asran (Egypt) beat F. Donnelly (Australia), 9—1, 9—1, 9—1; M. Lilley (NZ) beat M. Awad (Egypt), 9—5, 9—6, 10—9; C. Nancarrow (Australia) beat B. Pearson (Yorkshire), 9—6, 9—4, 9—0; A. Safwat (Egypt) beat H. Colburn (SA), 9—1, 9—1, 9—1; K. Hiscoe (Australia) beat L. Lohner (Sweden), 9—3, 9—5.

Cricket

Pakistan start badly then strike back

Roseau, Dominica, March 26.—Sixteen wickets fell on the first day of Pakistan's four-day match against the Windward Islands here today. Pakistan have made a habit of starting their matches badly in the West Indies and today was no exception. They were bowled out for 167 despite a valiant and lucky innings of 56 by Wasim Raja.

By the close of play, however, they had struck back strongly, taking six Islands wickets for 110, largely due to Sikhander Bakht and Sarfraz Nawaz, the fast bowlers. Wasim Raja had built up a reputation as Pakistan's saviour after making the highest score in all four innings of the first two Tests. But, in his last three innings his luck had deserted him only to return today when he was dropped three times before finally being bowled by Norbert Phillips.

SCORES: Pakistan, 167 (Wasim Raja 56; P. Thomas 4 for 60, N. Phillips 3 for 25); Windward Islands, 110 for 6 (L. Sebastien 64).—Reuter.

Scarborough capture indoor title

By John Woodcock

Cricket Correspondent

By winning the Wrigley Trophy at the Harrow Leisure Centre on Saturday, Scarborough became the first side to be simultaneously the indoor and the outdoor club cricket champions. In Saturday's six-a-side final they carried too many guns for Headington United, who were playing only their sixth competitive indoor game.

The weather was ideal for indoor cricket—raw, wet, cold and dismal. The arena was one of those new sports centres which have sprung up over the last eight or ten years and now give so much pleasure to so many people. Light and approximately 40 yards square, with high walls on three sides, it was just large enough for good fielding and field-placing to be rewarded.

It is a game, like hockey and squash, for cricketers to play during the winter. In the same way that indoor hockey is artificial, so is indoor cricket. But on Saturday's evidence the best cricketers are the most successful.

Latest European snow reports

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Piste	Conditions Off piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm) —	°C
Andermatt	30	370	Good	Varied	Poor	Rain	6
Some slopes still good							
Avoriaz	115	180	Good	Powder	Good	Cloud	-1
Heavy snow on lower slopes							
Isola 2000	210	320	Good	Varied	Good	Cloud	2
Slush below 500 metres							
La Plagne	160	265	Good	Heavy	Fair	Cloud	6
Lower slopes heavy							
St Anton	0	230	Fair	Varied	Closed	Rain	7
Snowing above 2,000 metres							
Tignes	155	295	Good	Heavy	Good	Fine	3
Some runs closed							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports have been received from other sources:

Equestrianism

Captain Phillips joint winner of one-day event

By Pamela Macgregor-Morris

While Princess Anne confined herself to novices at the Ambesley Horse Show in Cirencester Park yesterday and on Saturday, Captain Mark Phillips had a winning ride on his Badminton hope, Persian Holiday, in a Foxhunter competition, to score his fifth victory of this three-day meeting. He emerged as the joint overall winner of the Colt Car one-day event on Evening Breeze, who did the best dressage of 109 starters but had a fence down in the show-jumping. Premium stallion bred, in Yorkshire, on both sides of his pedigree (by Weathercock out of an Evening Trial mare), the horse was a wedding present to the Royal Couple from Trevor Banks.

Princess Anne did not start Goodwill in the deteriorating conditions, but Captain Phillips rode the Queen's 1974 Badminton winner, Colombus, in the Chautleurplan Hunter trial championships, in which Janet Dallimore's good young event horse, Sloop John B, broke his neck. Tony Newbery and Warwick III won two competitions on their first outing of the year, taking the Avon area international trial, and finally thwarting the triumphant progress of young Michael Whitaker, who won the big event on Friday. Then they won the Colt Car grand prix by 1.9 seconds from Fred Welsh on his new ride, Mrs Lepperd's Rossmore II.

Having taken a gamble which was foiled by the weather in running this invaluable spring schooling show without a major sponsor and having paid from his own pocket for so doing, owing to Badminton restrictions on cigarette advertising which caused Marlboro to pull out last year, he is continuing the show, reluctantly, unless a successor appears

Football

Revie figures on yet another numbers game

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

England's team to play Luxembourg in a World Cup qualifying game at Wembley next Wednesday, will again bear little resemblance to past selections. Don Revie's *latest choice*, announced last night, contained no new caps but was another new combination.

The team, subject to the fitness of the Manchester City player, Tueart, will start as a 4-3-3 formation, *aligned as follows:* Clemence; Clement, Watson, Hughes, Cherry; Tueart (or Francis), Keegan, Kennedy; Channon, Royle, Hill, but Mr Revie said he would not necessarily stick to this system. "It depends on how Luxembourg will play", he said. Luxembourg, the weakest team in the World Cup group, are expected to *play* ultra-defensive football, and if they do, England will probably push Cherry forward into midfield after perhaps 10 minutes. Tueart has knee ligament trouble but will play on the right wing if he recovers, with Hill on the left.

Mr Revie said: "I don't think it will be all that easy to break them down if they have nine men at the back. I've always thought this group would rest on goal difference, so we've got to look for goals. We've got to have width against nine defenders."

So in a little over a decade, English international football has *used* virtually all of the tactical number games and will almost certainly arrive back with two wingers, albeit within yet another experimental formation. Wingers disappeared from the national team in the reign of *Sir Alf Ramsey*, whose success in the 1966 World Cup set up a chain reaction that quickly had clubs following the 4-4-2 *pattern*, whether or not they had the players to carry out the essential quick counter attack.

We have seen Mr Revie try 4-3-3 and briefly 4-2-4 against the Finns. The team announced yesterday *will probably explore the possibilities* of 3-3-4 because, in the absence of a lasting tactical theme, Mr Revie always comes back to what he considers the most effective single move in football, the ball played *back from* the goal line by wingers fast enough to "get behind the defence" and into the path of one or two tall strikers.

Admittedly, the outswinging centre is difficult for defenders to reach but the success of the move depends on the winger being accurate. Hill, for all of his skill in tight corners, is not known *for placing particularly accurate centres.* Certainly he can get the ball across but too often the defenders are given a better than even chance of forcing it away.

The theory is that if enough centres are made, a proportion will be met by Royle. It may work against Luxembourg, but, as with the team selection itself, it lacks variety. The Italians used *much the same method against* Luxembourg last year and still found the penalty area so crowded that the move had only limited effect. Ominously, too, the England team yesterday played against the Reserves, "strengthened" by some Uxbridge players, and lost 2—0 with Mariner scoring both goals, one from a breakaway through the centre. Tueart and Todd did not play. Luxembourg's only way to embarrass England is expected to come through this method.

The mood of impatience around Mr Revie's failure to compose a *theme, is now darker than ever,* but his defence is still based on the evidence that injuries have cost him team continuity. That argument rarely gains sympathy at any level of the game. No soundly organized club changes tactics and experiments with several different players at a moment of crisis. There is "cover" for every first team player and although it *must* be admitted that few club managers have been faced with as many injuries as Mr Revie, he does have a somewhat bigger choice. Where he invites criticism is in his failure to develop the potential seen in England's performances in the United States last summer.

The World Cup party seemed to have been formed but within *six months was dispersed.* It seemed that there was no attempt to bring in "cover" to retain the style and spirit of America.

This latest selection resembles only one previous team of the past year, and that merely in the last 20 minutes of the game with Finland at Wembley in October, when Channon, Royle, and Hill were together, but Tueart was replaced by Mills.

The Welsh manager, Michael Smith, was left with only 14 of his original 16 after John Toshack and Malcolm Page had withdrawn through injury. Smith said yesterday: "Toshack's injury has completely upset our plans in attack. There is no way we can adequately fill the position. With Toshack out, we will have a big problem. We will have to improvise."

The Republic of Ireland, who meet France in Dublin on Wednesday, went through a full scale run out in a game between *Johnny* Giles' XI and Paul Madeley's team on Saturday.

Ray Kennedy: return to Revie's fold.

Fulham ride roller coaster of hope and despair

By Geoffrey Green

Although Fulham beat Sheffield United 3—2 at Craven Cottage on Saturday to support them is to ride a roller coaster of hope and despair. Typical was the 3—0 lead almost thrown away at the end. In early *season* too when Best and Marsh arrived like meteors from *America to join forces with Bobby* Moore, there was euphoria in the air. Gates soared and there were even thoughts of promotion.

Shortly before Christmas however there came disruption. A revolution brought an unwelcome change of fortune followed by a run of 13 matches without a win from mid-December. In all this decline Moore has kept going *while threatening to retire at the* end of the season; Best has been in and out of the side through injury; Marsh has packed his bags and returned disillusioned to the States; support has slumped and now Fulham find themselves fighting relegation. If all this is old hat to the long-suffering faithfuls of Craven Cottage it may be worth repeating that while change is the one constant of life change in *its if is not always of benefit.*

Certainly this win over Sheffield has gained some breathing space but once more it was the old unpredictable Fulham. Again they almost let slip everything as the United—so disunited earlier—came back with two goals in the closing quarter of an hour to have everyone chewing their knuckles.

Fulham in the end owed much to the generalship of Moore at the back of the defence and the lively penetration of Maybank up front. Moore, for one, certainly did not *appreciate opponents running at* him with the ball, but his wide experience helped him to retrieve awkward situations in the nick of time.

Once Mitchell had knocked in his fourteenth goal of the season to give Fulham the lead midway through the opening half—following a downward nod by Warboys to Slough's right wing corner—it was Maybank who took the damp afternoon into his keeping. His pace and mobility caught the eye just as a sliding tackle by Cutbush—a former colleague now on loan to Sheffield—caught his foot to concede a fortuitous penalty on the stroke of half time. Maybank did the required from the spot and Fulham enjoyed a comfortable interlude two goals to the good.

Shortly it became three as Maybank hit home his own rebound from an acute angle after a long cross-pass by Storey. Now it all looked plain sailing. But Fulham *relaxed*, the young Sheffield side stopped footling in midfield, and it was the experienced Woodward who got one back from the penalty spot after Howe had *hooked up Hamson.*

When Edwards made it 3—2 with eight minutes left Fulham suddenly felt the rope tightening round their neck. But somehow they prevented the trapdoor being sprung. Even the Thames seemed to sigh as it flowed past its old friend.

FULHAM: G. Peyton; R. Evans, L. Strong, P. Storey, E. Howe, R. Moore, E. Maybank, A. Slough, A. Warboys, J. Mitchell, J. Margerrison.

SHEFFIELD UNITED: J. Brown; J. Cutbush, P. Garner, C. Franks, E. Colquhoun, A. Keworthy, A. Woodward, D. Longhorn, K. Edwards, G. Hamson, S. Stainrod (Sub. I. Hamilton).

Referee: T. D. Spencer (Swindon).

One of Everton's unsuccessful efforts. Latchford's attempt is disallowed because of a foul on Daines.

Everton improvement owes much to grit and energy

By Tom German

Everton will be contemplating their two important cup appointments with a more contented mind, and perhaps a little more ambition, *after 10 consecutive* matches without defeat. Four goals without response from Tottenham Hotspur at Goodison Park on Saturday will have eased anxieties about relegation and it will matter not one jot that grit and energy, rather than refinement, have provided the foundation for their improvement.

Survival is the declared priority *of their new manager, Gordon Lee,* and who can reproach him for his order of preference. Even without trimmings, they look a safer bet to keep their place than Tottenham, often unsure of themselves at the back and none too certain just where the goal lay when the moment came to shoot.

Paradoxically, there was a spell of 20 minutes or so between Everton's first and second goals when Tottenham looked the more ordered side. They were building their moves quickly and precisely with Hoddle, Armstrong and *Taylor all ready to dart at* the defence. One neat move involving Holmes and Coates sent Taylor speeding through the middle but Lawson's outstretched foot got in the way of his shot.

Latchford, too, has blossomed with the greater effort and steadiness around *him*, though he got little help on Saturday from McKenzie's flicks and feints. Latchford took Rioch's pass and slipped a couple of opponents splendidly to score in less than 90 seconds, his twentieth goal of the season and his eighth in the last 11 matches. Testimony enough to the sharper, more bustling threat he is offering around the penalty area.

It was a header from Latchford into Dobson's path which brought the second goal and the points on which the match turned. *Dobson sprawled* between two opponents and King tucked away the penalty. Tottenham's defence was in congested confusion again when Dobson edged in Goodlass's corner kick as Coates tried unsuccessfully to boot the ball off the line. The match was as good as won with Everton three goals ahead at half time. Much of the second half was as grey as the day itself, though relieved four minutes from the end when Lyons got a touch at the near post to another corner from Goodlass to score Everton's fourth goal.

EVERTON: D. Lawson; T. Darracott, M. Pejic; M. Lyons, K. McNaught, A. King; D. McKenzie, M. Dobson, R. Latchford, B. Rioch, R. Goodlass.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: B. Daines; T. Naylor, J. Holmes; J. Pratt, K. Osgood, S. Perryman; C. Jones, G. Hoddle, G. Armstrong, R. Coates, P. Taylor.

Referee: J. K. Taylor (Wolverhampton).

Netherlands take step nearer finals

Antwerp, March 27.—Johan Cruyff showed just why he is regarded as Europe's top player as he led the Netherlands to a 2—0 *victory over Belgium in a group* four World Cup match here last night.

With his Barcelona team colleague, Johan Neeskens, Cruyff dominated the match and made the Netherlands favourites for a place in the 1978 World Cup finals in Argentina—even though he has said he will not play there. Before last night's match Belgium were leading the group after victories over Iceland and Northern Ireland by one point from the Netherlands, who dropped a surprising home point against the Irish.

Guy Thys, the Belgian manager, promised before the match that his side would attack the Dutch, but Cruyff had other ideas. Arms waving as he directed his side, Cruyff held the ball, probed for openings, then suddenly unleashed a telling pass or an incisive run which kept the Belgians pinned back in their own half for much of the game.

He crowned a glorious performance with a 65th minute goal, although the Belgians and many of the Dutch in the 62,000 crowd thought he was offside as he *scored. Kist lobbed a ball over* the static Belgian defence and Cruyff ran on to stroke it past Piot.

The Netherlands other goal came in the 19th minute from another Dutchman playing club football in Spain, Valencia's winger Rep. A long cross from Neeskens found Rep alone in the Belgian area and the Dutchman headed home. Piot was only able to help the ball in.

The Belgian experiment of playing Coeck, the 22-year-old Anderlecht player, usually a midfield *man, as sweeper,* was destroyed by the efficient Dutch outfit. Mr Thys, in charge of building the Belgian side, still has much to do before the return match in the Netherlands next October. If all the other group matches go to form, Belgium will need to win that match to qualify for Argentina, an unlikely prospect on last night's form.

BELGIUM: C. Piot (Standard Liège); A. Bastijns (FC Bruges), H. Broos (Anderlecht), L. Coeck (Anderlecht), J. Volders (FC Bruges), F. Van Der Elst (Anderlecht), H. Verheyen (Lokeren), J. Cools (FC Bruges), R. Van Gool (FC Cologne), P. Courant (FC Bruges), W. Wellens (RWD Molenbeek).

NETHERLANDS: P. Schrijvers (Ajax); W. Suurbier (Ajax), R. Krol (Ajax), W. Rijsbergen (Feyenoord), H. Hovenkamp (AZ 67 Alkmaar), J. Neeskens (Barcelona), K. Kist (AZ 67 Alkmaar), W. Vande Kerkof (PSV), J. Rep (Valencia), J. Cruyff (Barcelona), R. Rensenbrink (Anderlecht).

Group four

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Netherlands ..	3	2	1	0	4	2	5
Belgium ..	3	2	0	1	3	2	4
N. Ireland ..	3	0	1	1	2	4	1
Iceland ..	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

—Reuter.

Tennis

Miss Barker beaten in three sets by Miss Evert

New York, March 27.—Christine Evert *held off a determined* challenge by Susan Barker to win the Virginia Slims women's professional tennis tournament 2—6, 6—1, 6—1, at Madison Square Garden here today. After a poor first set Miss Evert gained control of her baseline game and took advantage of Miss Barker's ailing backhand.

Miss Evert, who earned 50,000 dollars (about £30,000), won the title after losing in last year's final to Evonne Cawley. It was the fourth time she has won this event. But in the first set she repeatedly double-faulted and her confidence appeared to waver.

Miss Barker broke service in the fifth game with strong forehand passing shots which Miss Evert could not return. She broke service again in the seventh game and held her own service to take the first set. Miss Evert came back in the second set, breaking Miss Barker's service in the second and sixth games as the Briton began to feel her sore shoulder.

Her concentration began to wander and Miss Evert took the third and decisive set in comfort. Her victory increased her earnings this season to 174,500 dollars in eight events, surpassing Martina Navratilova as the leader on the women's tour.

In another match, Betty Stove, of The Netherlands, beat Kristien Shaw 6—3, 6—4. Miss Navratilova (2—1) and Ms Casals (2—1) will meet in the third-place match. Miss Evert held off Ms Casal's fast and aggressive game, pinning her to the backcourt when Ms Casals obviously wanted to come to the net.

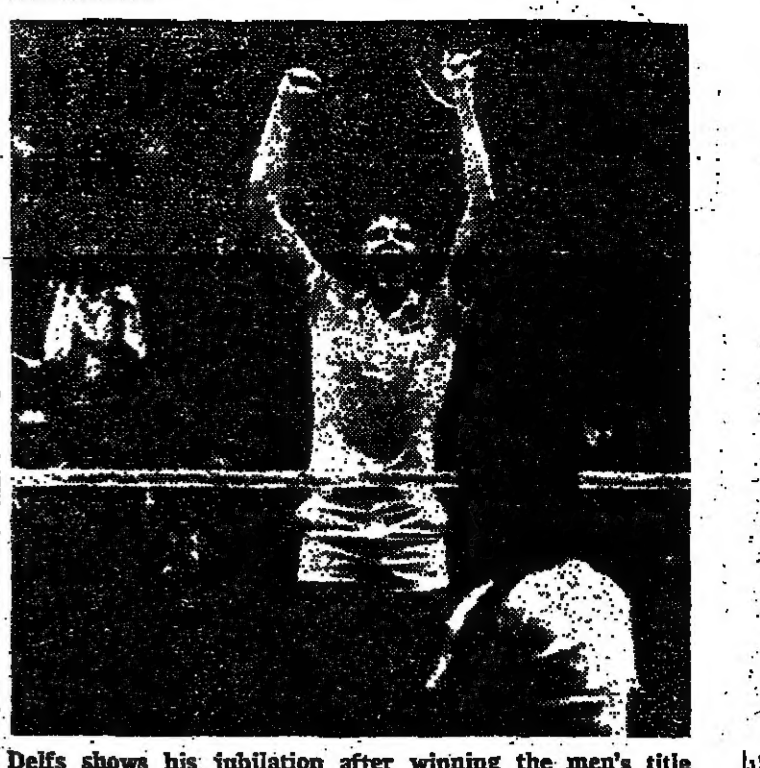
"She didn't let me get in to the net at all", Ms Casals said. "I couldn't get in to do anything." Ms Casals predicted Miss Evert would beat Miss Barker. "She has far greater experience, is far more consistent and really has played tennis better than any woman except Billie Jean King", Ms Casals said. "And even there, Billie Jean had physical problems that Chris doesn't."

Miss Barker played an emotional, fast-paced match against Miss Navratilova, the Czech defector, who beat Miss Evert in the finals of a women's tournament in Philadelphia. Both players were troubled by sore shoulders, with Miss Navratilova in pain on each backhand shot.

In the second set, Miss Barker and Miss Navratilova took turns at breaking each other's services until the sixth game, when the blonde Briton held service on a short, angled shot. Miss Navratilova cut the lead to 5—4 when Miss Barker's backhand shot went out.

RESULTS: Miss C. Evert beat Ms R. Casals, 6—4, 6—1; Miss S. Barker (GB) beat Miss M. Navratilova, 7—5, 6—4; Miss B. Stove (Netherlands) beat Miss K. Shaw, 6—3, 6—4; Ms S. V. Wade (GB) beat Miss M. Jausovec (Yugoslavia), 6—7, 6—3, 6—4.

Badminton



Delfs shows his jubilation after winning the men's title in the All England championships at Wembley.

Delfs leads the way into a new decade

By Richard Streeton

Flemming Delfs, from every aspect a Danish giant worthy of Hans Christian Andersen's pen, led badminton into a new decade on Saturday when he won the men's title at the All England championships at Wembley. By beating Liem Swie King, Delfs showed that Europe has a player capable of stemming the ceaseless challenge from the Indonesian masters.

The inaugural world championships at Malmo in May will bring the next instalment of what promises to be a succession of memorable clashes between Delfs, 25, and Liem, 21, during the coming years. Delfs, who at 6ft 1in and over 13st might have been cast from a mould for rugby forwards, won 15—17, 15—11, 15—8. Since losing heavily to Liem in the Swedish championships last January, Delfs has worked hard to improve his speed and stamina and he has clearly succeeded.

These were the attributes, together with his determination and power, retrieval ability, and splendid backhand flicks from the wrist, which combined to sap Liem's resistance. Liem, a wiry and tough competitor, was seldom allowed to use his more delicate touch strokes or to dictate tactics. *Though Liem fought back well* from behind several times, one gradually felt his spirit evaporate. Long hours of studying cinefilms of the match, which were taken by his compatriots, clearly await Liem in those gruelling Indonesian *training camps they hold for* months on end.

Miss Hiroe Yuki (Japan) had too much maturity for Miss Lene Köppen (Denmark) and won the women's title for the fourth time. She was far steadier when it mattered in a match littered with unforced errors and won 7—11, 11—3, 11—7. Overall, perhaps, this was not a vintage year for the *championships with fewer matches* than usual quickening the pulse. In the long term incidentally there is a possibility that they will be moved to Earls Court. Officials are studying the facilities there at this week's professional tennis. Next year's All England event, which John Player are again hoping to assist financially, will have the added stimulus for the sport *of being followed* almost immediately afterwards by the European championships in Newcastle.

China, who dominated the recent Asian championships, might be eligible by then to come to the All England event. Only their arrival on the scene looks capable of posing problems for Messrs Delfs and Liem, irrespective of how these two fare between themselves in the meantime.

FINALS RESULTS: Men's singles: F. Delfs (Denmark) beat Liem Swie King (Indonesia), 15—17, 15—11, 15—8; Men's doubles: Tjun Tjun and J. Wahjudi (Indonesia) beat A. Chandra and Christian (Indonesia), [illegible]; Women's singles: Miss H. Yuki (Japan) beat Miss L. Koppen (Denmark), 7—11, 11—3, 11—7; Women's doubles: Mrs E. Toganoo and Mrs E. Ueno (Japan) beat Mrs M. Lockwood and Mrs N. C. Perry, 15—13, 15—10; Mixed doubles: D. Talbot and Mrs G. M. Gilks beat D. Tredgett and Mrs N. C. Perry, 15—4, [illegible].

Boxing

Bugner's new retirement disappoints few

Joe Bugner's second and presumably final retirement from boxing, announced in Los Angeles on Saturday, will surprise nobody and disappoint few. Bugner's time as a crowd pleaser had run out and *his performance against the American,* Ron Lyle, *in* Las Vegas last Sunday earned disapproval in this country. The relationship he conducted for 10 years with the British boxing public had finally swung too far against him for there to be much hope of recovery.

Bugner always accepted the opinion of boxing crowds with dignity and he did his best to please even though this was sometimes hard to believe. Bugner had some good contests among his 61, notably the one against Joe Frazier in 1973 when he lost on points over 12 rounds and got up from the floor to stage his late rally.

His attempt to re-start the affair between October 1976 and last week clearly failed.

In the context of that performance *his dismal showing against* Lyle, similar to Frazier but less talented, was the more difficult to understand. When he first retired in January 1976, Bugner said he had fallen out of love with boxing.

Greatness still elusive to Nottingham Forest

By Gerald Sindstadt

Nottingham Forest beat Blackpool 3-0 on Saturday to keep themselves among the possibles for promotion to the first division. Not having been born great, nor having had greatness thrust upon them, nor showing any prominent signs of achieving greatness, Forest may regard the future with *mixed* emotions. Moderately talented sides struggle in the first division and, on Saturday's evidence, Forest cannot pretend to many exceptional qualities.

Popular acclaim and most critical opinions made Withe the man *of the match. He scored two goals,* one with a shot he mishit, the other with a point blank header. He ran with some intelligence and much heart on a clinging pitch. He is a busy, bustling player who keeps defenders occupied. His rudimentary ball control and turning ability on the other hand, are not of first division standard, which may partially explain his moves from Wolverhampton Wanderers and Birmingham City.

Robertson is an old-fashioned touchline player and no worse for that. He has skill and self-confidence, but he needs room. Unless Forest find someone to give them width and penetration on the right, Robertson will continue to be cramped as he was in the *first* half by Blackpool.

Forest's second goal was scored by Woodcock from a position which allowed enough suspicion of offside for Bentley to be cautioned for the vehemence of *his protests. It came just before* half-time and only two minutes afterwards Withe had scored the first goal. The result was to open out what had been a sterile, unexciting game. Woodcock, like Robertson, benefited from more space after the interval, but his determined running still led him frequently into blind alleys.

Almost every Nottingham credit was balanced by a debit. Anderson shaped well at right back, but the 33-year-old Clark on the left would surely have been exposed had not Blackpool fielded a front line of *three central strikers.*

Wood, who has grown in authority since he succeeded Burridge 18 months ago, kept goal well for Blackpool. In front of him, Hart and Suddaby were not free of blame for Forest's goals but in general both defended stoutly. Blackpool's weakness lay in midfield where Ainscow, Ronson and Bentley found neither room nor inspiration.

Forest now have ten games to play. The testing period will be between April 6 and 16 when they meet Bolton Wanderers at home, followed by Notts County and Chelsea away. In a tight finish, goal difference could help them.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: J. Middleton; V. Anderson, F. Clark, R. Chapman, L. Lloyd, I. Bowyer, J. McGovan, M. O'Neill, P. Withe, A. Woodcock, J. Robertson.

BLACKPOOL: G. Wood; J. Curtis, S. Harrison, W. Ronson, P. Hart, P. Suddaby, A. Ainscow, D. Spence, M. Walsh, R. Hatton, W. Bentley (substitute D. Tong).

Referee: A. W. Grey (Great Yarmouth).

Bristol's cue to bring on offstage star

By Clive White

Given Leicester City's unwholesome appetite for drawing matches and *Bristol City's curious aversion* to goals (for or against) it was really no surprise that together they should muster a mindless, goalless draw at Filbert Street on Saturday. A lot of the paying public obviously saw it coming, too, and neatly side-stepped the fixture, one of only three in the first division.

Those absent were, perhaps, blissfully unaware of the *importance* of the game, with the lure of Europe and the dreaded prospect of the second division providing the motivation. As it was, a point to each hardly helped achieve their causes, merely kept both matters ticking over.

Bristol City were no doubt the harder done by as their progressive play must have given them the verdict on points. Their league record this season has been an odd one. Though fourth from bottom they have conceded fewer goals than most above them, particularly away from home. Their present predicament has, of course, been caused by failures up front; *seven goals* in 14 away matches do not earn many points. They were deprived the emerging promise of Cheeseley early in the season through injury and on Saturday were without Cormack and Ritchie. They also chose, possibly unwisely, to leave the goalscoring talent of Garland on the substitute's bench. Having been secured from Leicester he might naturally have felt inspired.

Leicester, without the power and drive of Weller (cartilage), and Blockley (cartilage again) and *Sims, lost the adventurous spirit* of Rofe after 30 minutes. However, on the healthier side May, one of the reserves, was a success in his first full game, countering poor timing in the air with precision work on the ground.

Not so happy was Birchenall, who had the sort of afternoon which only amnesia can ease. Twice, at least, in the first half he put the opposition away with perfect passes. And when, in the second, he hurled the ball over the by-line and out of play from a throw-in he knew for sure he should have stayed at home.

A shot out of the blue, or rather, grey, by Mann, 15 minutes from time which slammed against the crossbar shook everyone up including Bristol. Prompted with renewed vigour by the thorough *professionalism of Hunter* Bristol began to seek a more direct route to safety. A flurry of action round the Leicester goal at the end should have aided their case for a second showing in the first division next season.

LEICESTER CITY: M. Wallington; S. Whitworth, D. Rofe (sub, S. Yates), S. Kember, A. Woollett, L. May, A. Birchenall, J. Sammels, F. Worthington, B. Alderson, S. Earle.

BRISTOL CITY: J. Shaw; D. Gillies, G. Merrick, G. Sweeney, G. Collier, N. Hunter, T. Tainton, J. Mann, K. Fear, G. Gow, C. Whitehead.

Referee: R. Capey (Madeley Heath, Crewe).

Rangers lose all hope of retaining title

The shocks came thick and fast in the Scottish Premier League. Heart of Midlothian were beaten 2—0 by Partick Thistle and fell to second from bottom, but Ayr United moved up with a fine 2—0 win at Aberdeen and the champions, Rangers, lost all hope of retaining the title by losing 1—0 to the bottom club Kilmarnock. Hearts are in a desperate position now and they will have to pull something extra out to avoid relegation.

The *Ayr result also came as a* crashing blow to Hearts. It gave Ayr two valuable points and a leg up the table. Walter McCall had Ayr ahead in two minutes and Danny Masterton hit Aberdeen with a second goal *in* 66 minutes.

Kilmarnock, reckoned to be beyond all hope of avoiding relegation, stunned Rangers with a goal by their captain, Alan Robertson, on the hour. It was truly their fourth league win of the season and it was a heavy blow to Rangers' pride.

Tangle may not be untangled until mid-June

Liverpool and Bristol City are locked in a fixture tangle which could mean that the destination of the league *championship* and the relegation issue will not be settled until the middle of June. City, well behind with their fixtures, are further embarrassed by the postponement of their home game with Liverpool on April 23, the date of the FA Cup semi-final round. Liverpool, trying for a European, league and FA Cup treble, have offered to play at Bristol on June 18.

Alan Dicks, the manager of City, *said* yesterday: "There is no way we can accept that.

Today's fixtures

SECOND DIVISION: Notts County v Sheffield United (7.30).

THIRD DIVISION: Tranmere Rovers v Bury (7.30).

FOURTH DIVISION: Hartlepool United v Southport (7.15); Newport County v Barnsley (7.30); Stockport *County v Bradford City* (7.30).

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Southall & EB v Kingstonian (7.30).

RUGBY UNION: Club match: Penarth v Abertillery (7.0).

Hockey

Last match will decide the championship

By Joyce Whitehead

Two international matches last Saturday have left the result of the home countries championship unresolved until the last match, Ireland v Scotland, in Dublin on April 2.

Scotland beat Wales 2—0 at *Llanelli leaving Wales* with the wooden spoon, and Ireland robbed England of the triple Crown. They beat them for the second year running, this time to the tune of 2—1. Actually England might have made it had it not been for the leprechauns. Twice the Irish defenders somehow swept the ball from the goal line in the most miraculous fashion.

The first half was good and full of promise. Jennifer Givan scored first for Ireland and Janet Jurischka equalized just before half-time from an accurately taken corner by Margaret Souyave. In the second half England faded a little and Ireland continued their spirited performance. Mary Taeffe shot the winning goal. They deserved their victory. Their basic *skills* were better than England's and they wasted no time in going to meet the ball. Now all wait for the result of the Ireland-Scotland encounter.

The British Universities group two-day tournament starts this morning at the New University of Ulster in Coleraine.

Scots find themselves in game of lost opportunity

By Sydney Friskin

Scotland 0 Poland 1

Fortunes fluctuated tantalizingly in the international quadrangular hockey tournament at Glasgow which ended yesterday with a strange story of lost opportunity. Scotland, after missing three penalty strokes, lost to Poland and Wales, the only unbeaten side, won the event.

Poland, who began on Friday by losing 6—1 to Ireland and drawing 1—1 with Wales on Saturday, brought a young side not particularly gifted but full of zeal and tenacity. Their stopping was superb and their hitting full of purpose and meaning.

Territorially, Scotland had about 70 per cent of the game but missed three penalty strokes as well as squandering seven short corners. They missed the first penalty stroke in the tenth minute when Stobbie hit a post. Six minutes later Bak converted a short corner for Poland with a superb shot and Scotland were in trouble.

Scotland had more *opportunities* in the second half, but missed a second penalty stroke when McLean pushed the ball straight to the goalkeeper. The third stroke, taken five minutes before the end by Dick, had more venom but the Polish goalkeeper made a brilliant save.

The match ended with both sides shooting wide of the mark, the Poles missing the easier chances with their outside right, Rachwalski, missing an open goal. Kilgour, Scotland's goalkeeper, had a fine game, saving several stinging shots from short corners.

Wales 1 Ireland 0

A snap goal by Marsh four minutes before the end decided a game which Wales narrowly deserved to win. They looked sharper in attack with Marsh, Cowx and Jeans frequently conspicuous. Gregg, as usual, was the best of the Irish forwards.

Wales might have taken a firm grip in the first minute during which it took all the skill and experience of Judge to hold the tottering Irish defence together. There were six short corners, four to Wales and two to Ireland, who came closer to a score with Savage in goal saving well from Gregg.

After the interval the Welsh defenders kept a close watch on Gregg and Dunlop and, with the Irish rearguard dissolving several Welsh attacks, the game seemed to be heading for a draw. Then Jeans, seizing the ball as it came across from the right, set up a chance for Marsh to score the winning goal.

Ireland had to change their goalkeeper because of injury shortly before the goal was scored.

Weekend football results

First division

Everton	4	Tottenham H	0
Leicester C	0	Bristol City	0
Newcastle Utd	1	Middlesbrough	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ipswich T	32	18	7	7	57	30	43
Liverpool	32	18	7	7	60	27	43
Manchester C	31	14	12	5	43	23	40
Newcastle Utd	32	14	11	7	52	36	39
Manchester U	29	14	8	7	53	39	36
Leicester C	33	11	14	8	43	46	36
WBA	32	12	11	9	46	40	35
Aston Villa	27	16	4	7	55	31	36
Leeds United	30	12	9	9	37	37	33
Middlesbrough	32	12	9	11	31	35	33
Arsenal	32	10	9	13	48	53	29
Birmingham C	31	10	8	13	48	48	28
Norwich City	32	11	6	15	36	51	28
Everton	29	10	7	12	40	49	27
Stoke City	30	9	9	12	18	29	27
QPR	27	9	7	11	32	36	25
Coventry C	28	8	8	12	31	40	24
Tottenham H	32	9	6	17	37	60	24
Bristol City	29	7	8	14	26	33	22
Derby County	29	5	12	12	31	42	22
Sunderland	32	7	7	18	32	40	21
West Ham Utd	29	8	5	16	28	49	21

WORLD CUP: Qualifying round: Peru 2, Chile 0; Australia 3, New Zealand 1; Japan 0, South Korea 0.

OTHER MATCHES: Chelsea 3, Arsenal 0; Hereford United 1, Stoke City 0.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE First division: Barking 5, Bishop's Stortford 3; Hayes 1, Croydon 0; Hendon 1, Kingstonian 0; Ilford 1, Staines Town 4; Leatherhead 0, Dagenham 0; Leytonstone 1, Enfield 1; Slough Town 1, Tooting and Mitcham 1; Southall 3, Walthamstow Avenue 0; Tilbury 2, *Hitchin Town 2; Wycombe Wanderers* 3, Sutton United 0. Second division: Boreham Wood 3, Chesham United 2; Bromley 2, Oxford City 1; Clapton 4, Horsham 1; Corinthian-Casuals 0, Walton and Hersham 1; Finchley 1, Hornchurch 2; Hampton 0, Carshalton Athletic 2; Maidenhead United 1, Harwich and Parkeston 2; St Albans City 2, Harlow Town 3; Ware 0, Harrow Borough 3; Wembley 2, Wokingham Town 2.

Second division

Blackburn R	2	Millwall	0
Cardiff City	0	Plymouth A	1
Fulham	3	Sheffield Utd	2
Luton Town	5	Carlisle Utd	0
Nottm Forest	3	Blackpool	0
Orient	1	Notts County	0
Wolverhampton	2	Hull City	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wolverhampton	31	17	9	5	69	36	43
Chelsea	32	16	11	5	55	[illegible]	43
Luton Town	33	19	4	10	57	34	42
Bolton W	31	16	7	8	58	42	39
Nottm Forest	32	15	8	9	61	36	38
Blackpool	33	12	13	8	45	37	37
Notts Cnty	32	15	7	10	50	45	37
Charlton Ath	32	11	12	9	53	47	34
Millwall	32	12	10	10	46	41	34
Blackburn R	32	13	8	11	38	39	34
Oldham Ath	31	12	8	11	41	42	32
Hull City	31	7	15	9	37	37	29
Sheffield Utd	32	9	11	12	40	46	29
Southampton	29	9	10	10	50	48	28
Plymouth A	33	7	14	12	35	49	28
Orient	29	8	10	11	30	36	26
Fulham	33	8	10	15	43	56	26
Bristol Rvrs	32	9	8	15	38	55	26
Cardiff City	31	9	7	15	40	48	25
Burnley	32	7	11	14	34	42	25
Carlisle Utd	33	8	7	18	36	66	23
Hereford Utd	30	4	10	16	37	61	18

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: First division: North: Banbury 2, Merthyr Tydfil 1; Barry 1, Bedworth 0; Cheltenham 0, Bromsgrove 1; Corby 1, Witney Town 1; *Kidderminster 0, Tamworth 1;* Kings Lynn 1, Milton Keynes 0; Oswestry 1, Cambridge City 3; Stourbridge 1, Gloucester 1; Wellingborough 1, Enderby 0; Worcester 6, Dunstable 1. South: Andover 2, Salisbury 4; Ashford 0, Metropolitan Police 2; Barnet 1, Hastings 0; Basingstoke 1, Romford 2; Bognor Regis 1, Poole 0; Folkestone/Shepway 0, Crawley 0; Tonbridge 2, Waterlooville 1; Trowbridge 3, Aylesbury 2.

ATHENIAN LEAGUE: First division: Addlestone 3, Grays 0; Alton 2, Letchworth 3; Cheshunt 1, Epsom and Ewell 0; Egham 3, Marlow 1; Haringey 2, Ruislip Manor 0; Hounslow 1, Erith and Belvedere 0; Lewes 4, Epping 1; Leyton-Wingate 3, Redhill 0; Rainham 4, Worthing 3.

Third division

Bury	2	Oxford Utd	1
Chesterfield	1	Shrewsbury T	1
Lincoln City	4	Gillingham	0
Mansfield T	1	Chester	1
Peterborough U	2	Brighton	0
Portsmouth	2	Northampton	1
Sheffield W	2	Reading	1
Swindon Town	2	Walsall	2
York City	1	Grimsby Town	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mansfield T	35	20	7	8	59	35	47
Rotherham Utd	34	17	13	4	53	30	47
Brighton	35	19	8	8	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Wrexham	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Preston	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Crystal P	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sheffield W	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bury	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lincoln	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Shrewsbury	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chester	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swindon	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oxford U	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Peterboro	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gillingham	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tranmere	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Portsmouth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Port Vale	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Walsall	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Northampton	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
York City	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Chesterfield	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Reading	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Grimsby	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: [illegible]

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: [illegible]

SCHOOLS MATCHES: [illegible]

Fourth division

Aldershot	0	Barnsley	1
Bournemouth	2	Watford	1
Brentford	4	Swansea City	0
Halifax Town	3	Crewe Alex	0
Hartlepool U	2	Colchester U	2
Newport Co	2	Bradford City	0
Scunthorpe U	0	Cambridge U	3
Southport	1	Stockport Co	0
Torquay Utd	2	Darlington	0
Workington	1	Exeter City	3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cambridge Utd	34	18	12	4	56	25	48
Colchester Utd	35	20	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: [illegible]

NORTHERN LEAGUE: [illegible]

Scottish premier division

Aberdeen	0	Ayr United	2
Celtic	2	Dundee Utd	0
Hibernian	1	Motherwell	2
Kilmarnock	1	Rangers	0
Partick Th	2	Hearts	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	27	18	6	3	61	31	42
Dundee Utd	28	15	7	6	48	32	37
Rangers	29	12	10	7	43	30	34
Aberdeen	28	12	9	7	44	30	33
Hibernian	28	7	14	7	28	28	28
Partick Th	28	8	9	11	31	37	25

Scottish first division

[illegible]

EAST GERMAN: [illegible]

Scottish second division

Brechin City	1	Clyde	2
Cowdenbeath	2	Albion Rovers	4
Meadowbank	1	Alloa Athletic	1
Queen's Park	2	Forfar Athletic	2
Stenhousemuir	0	E Stirlingshire	1
Stirling A	1	Dunfermline Ath	0
Stranraer	5	Berwick R	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stirling Albion	29	19	7	3	54	24	45
Stranraer	32	19	3	10	69	43	41
Alloa Ath	28	15	9	4	67	35	39
Queen's Park	29	15	6	8	55	38	36
Dunfermline A	29	13	9	7	37	32	35

GREEK: [illegible]

PORTUGUESE: [illegible]

WEST GERMAN: [illegible]

SPORT

Sale showing not only a lack of power but the will to overtake

By Tom Cooban

Leicester led throughout their match with Sale at Brooklands on Saturday, which perhaps explained some of the dull moments in spite of Leicester scoring 23 points (two goals, two tries and a penalty goal) to 14 by Sale (two tries and two penalty goals). Sale lacked power and, it sometimes seemed, the will to overtake. Strong running and good passing often swept play from end to end of the pitch, but an end-of-season atmosphere prevailed, intensified by a downpour of a persistence peculiar to Manchester.

The Leicester pack, heavier than Sale's, gained a slight advantage in scrummage and lineout and were much more successful in winning the ball from ruck and maul. This gave Kenney and Jones, the half backs, ample opportunity to bring into action two promising centres, Holley and Parkes, who have not had much first-team experience. The wingers, Duggan and Burwell, were in action less frequently but effectively.

The game was a severe test for the 18-year-old Barton, who replaced Smith as Sale's scrum half. He tried hard, but was constantly pressured not only by Kenney, but also by Adey, Forfar and Kempin, Leicester's mobile back row.

Both teams could have added handsomely to their scores had the goal-kicking been more consistent. For Leicester, Hare, their full back, started by converting from the touchline a try scored by Kenney as the game opened, and Percival kicked a penalty goal for Sale. Hare kicked another penalty goal, and then the rot set in. Percival missed two penalty goals before Sale got their first try. Barton got the ball out to Percival, at centre, and he and Drake passed and repassed before the winger touched down. This time Rule, the stand-off half, missed the conversion.

Passing along the three-quarter line brought Duggan a try which improved Leicester's position, though Hare missed the conversion from the touchline. Afterwards he missed an easier penalty shot, an example which Percival followed with a kick which should have been even simpler.

After missing another penalty goal following half-time, Hare redeemed himself by taking Kenney's pass to score a good try, which he converted. Rule replied with a penalty goal for Sale. Hare and Percival, in that order, missed with other penalty kicks before the Leicester backs and forwards joined in a passing movement from which Forfar scored an unconverted try in the corner.

An exciting finish saw Leicester attacks held, but after Drake had been tackled near the line Sale got the last try when Rule ran strongly after a scrum to put Clifford, the left-wing, in for an unconverted try.

SALE: S. Midgelow; J. Drake, A. Dunning, A. Percival, M. Clifford; S. Rule, A. Barton; A. Henry, A. Simpson, T. Simon, R. Trickey, R. Kaucow, R. Creed, G. Ormond, M. Murray.

LEICESTER: W. Hare; J. Duggan, L. Parkes, E. Holley, T. Burwell; B. Jones, S. Kenney; R. Cowling, J. White, R. French, R. Rowell, N. Joyce, J. Kempin, G. Adey, D. Forfar.

Referee: D. J. Hudson (Manchester).

Park warm to their task in rain

By Michael Hardy

Stirring the embers of the dying season, Rosslyn Park warmed a miserable afternoon with one of their best performances to beat Bristol by two tries, two penalty goals and a dropped goal (17 pts) to a penalty goal (3) at Roehampton on Saturday.

It was not, one would have thought, a day for wings. As the rain slanted down on a bare pitch, Bristol, who lost Morley with a knee injury in the first half, would surely have agreed. Yet the two wing men in a rearranged Park side, Sainter and McKay, both scored excellent tries. Nor was it a day for kicking goals. So the achievement of Thornton, the Park stand-off, in kicking two penalties and dropping a goal was all the more worthy.

Poor Bristol, they could do nothing right. When Pearn put them ahead with a penalty goal after six minutes they looked set for a comfortable win. But both the tries they conceded were fashioned from their own possession. In the first, Pearn lost the ball from a scrummage they had won, and Mordell pounced to put Sainter away. In the second, a short kick from a penalty, taken almost before the whistle was out of the referee's mouth, went straight to the Park backs who had it out to the forceful McKay in a flash.

To add to Bristol's misery, Carter dropped the ball on the line from a pass that Hunt, with no Park player immediately challenging, did not have to make, after one of their best passing moves. So it was no wonder that the confidence seemed to ooze out of them into the mud beneath their feet. It was left to that old warhorse, Rollitt, to make the best tackle of the match to stop Moyes, the second blade in a scissors move, when another Park score seemed certain.

While Bristol, with the possible exception of Sorrell, were fumbling and scratching around, Park seemed almost to be playing with another ball, and a dry one at that. The answer, of course, lay in that indefinable quality, morale. Park's soared as the match went on. Any side that can pose for the team photograph in rain must be strong on endurance. Keith-Roach's forwards were certainly that. By the end they were winning every ruck and lineout, though Troughton, in particular, had caused them some problems earlier. Even Ripley was not missed, so well did Mantell fill his place. And Hinton was to be seen at the end of the game galloping for the line like a wing.

With so much good possession, the halves, Pritchard and the brave Thornton, combined well in the conditions, Pritchard no doubt getting much satisfaction from winning a niggling duel with Pearn.

ROSSLYN PARK: P. Bale; R. Sainter, J. Moyes, P. A. Treseder, B. J. McKay; J. Thornton, R. Pritchard; G. Lloyd-Roberts, P. d'A. Keith-Roach, N. P. Hinton, A. K. Rodgers, J. Scott, R. Mordell, N. D. Mantell, N. Turner.

BRISTOL: D. Sorrell; A. Morley (sub D. Tyler), C. Williams, N. Hunt, R. Carter; P. Cue, A. Pearn; M. Fry, J. Tasker, A. Sheppard, A. Troughton, N. Pomphrey, P. Polledri, D. Rollitt, M. Rafter.

Referee: J. A. F. Trigg (London).

Late offensive fails to save Saracens

By Nicholas Keith

Saracens could not have asked for a tougher preliminary before their forthcoming John Player Cup semi-final examination than a workout against Gloucester. Both teams coated themselves with mud and a veneer of glory in atrocious conditions at Southgate on Saturday.

The rain and swamp seemed tailor-made for the heavy Gloucester pack, but Saracens stuck to their task although consistently outrucked and outmauled. Gloucester were thankful to hear the whistle for no-side having hoarded a lead of 9—3 since the twenty-fifth minute—a goal and a penalty goal (9 pts) to Saracens' penalty (3).

Saracens scored first, a penalty by Phillips which landed on the crossbar and bounced over. However, Gloucester made a quick and telling counterthrust. From a scrummage, Pinkney, the No 8, fed Howell, who darted through, flung a long pass to Jardine and Mogg was left unopposed on the left. Butler converted from the touchline.

A penalty by Butler from a similar position completed the scoring but not the entertainment. Gloucester seemed to have a second try after a neat sidestepping run by Williams, but the final pass from Jardine to Clewes went forward. Just before this, Saracens took two tap penalties near the Gloucester line, but first Jaszczak and then McGregor were beaten back.

The game wallowed in the mud during the third quarter, when Saracens were pinned back by Gloucester's relentless forwards, driving on like a drill on a North Sea oil rig. Saracens did win some handy possession at the lineout throughout the match, but were sure to lose it if a maul was allowed to form.

Dowling made a crucial save at the feet of Polnton after a misfield by Phillips of one of Williams's high kicks. This was the only error by the Saracens full back in a notable display of catching and line-kicking. He can be forgiven two missed penalties in the mud in the second half.

In the last 15 minutes, Saracens launched a do-or-die offensive and the tiring Gloucester side swayed dizzily as the play switched from one flank to the other. Saracens came closest to a try when Phillips entered the line at full stretch after a lovely long pass from Dowling, the scrum half. Phillips went outside Mogg and narrowly failed to win the race to his own chip ahead, as the ball bobbled tantalizingly in Gloucester's in-goal area.

I would not care to predict whether Saracens will beat Waterloo at Blundellsands on Saturday. However they will stand a good chance if Phillips can continue where he left off; if Holden and Jaszczak can again dominate the lineouts; if the props, McGregor and Faircloth, have learnt something from their crash course under the formidable tuition of Burton and Blakeway (in which the "pupils" performed creditably); if the injured Cadle returns to lend expression to Croydon's promptings. Above all, they will hope for decent weather.

SARACENS: M. Phillips; P. Worsfold, M. Ball, D. Croydon, A. Harrower; P. Hawkins, S. Dowling; C. McGregor, J. Lockwood (capt), R. Faircloth, P. Holden, A. Jaszczak, P. Stephens, E. J. Riddle, A. Keay.

GLOUCESTER: P. Butler; R. Clewes, D. Polnton, R. Jardine, R. Mogg; C. Williams, P. Howell; P. Blakeway, S. Mills, M. Burton, S. Boyle, P. Wimel, J. Watkins (capt), G. Pinkney, J. Haines.

Referee: P. J. Kingham (London).

A Cup game that had punch of the wrong sort

By Gareth Bowen

Some rugby traditions, at least, live on. After this tetchy Welsh Cup, which Cardiff won by the hugely flattering margin of 15 points to 6, no one would reveal the name of the late short-arm tackler who dispatched Clive Shell, Aberavon's scrum-half and captain, to hospital with a broken jaw.

The incident happened 30 minutes into the first half of a tie which neither side in their centenary year could afford to lose. Perhaps that was the problem. Finlayson, the Cardiff centre, had already gone off with an eye injury and Aberavon were without Leith Evans, the flanker, hoisted away with a twisted knee. Even Gareth Edwards was to succumb to the *mores* of this violent afternoon. He was cautioned by the surprisingly tolerant Mr Kelleher late in the game for a hand-off which this time the press box was clearly able to identify as a punch which would have done Joe Bugner proud in Las Vegas.

The time was, of course, in South Wales, when players did not jump for joy at the final whistle or throw punches of triumph to the skies when they scored (as Cardiff's Paul Evans did here) but that was when administrators set their minds against league and cups trophies, because they might make the game "dangerous". The shortcomings of this semi-final, and the other tension-fraught tie at Cardiff, point to the potential dangers in the game when "aggro" becomes the unspoken order of the day.

Shell's departure was crucial. Before it, Aberavon's power and fluency had threatened to destroy Cardiff. Afterwards they lost all coherence. Edwards's boot with a breeze behind it, did the rest. His unhappy rival at the base of the scrum was now Ian Evans, drafted from centre because Aberavon strangely lacked a specialist replacement, and his short and hesitant service drew Bevan into the arms of the Cardiff back row.

Martin, always the best forward on view, took Aberavon into the lead with a penalty awarded when Shell was injured. It was his third attempt, having missed two earlier and easier kicks when his rampant side were also throwing away at least three try-scoring chances. He converted another penalty before John Davies, with the last kick of the half (also a penalty), turned Cardiff into wind only 6—3 behind.

The margin was never wider. Gareth Edwards ignored his backs and the crowd who were desperately in need of some spectacle, preferring to drive the Aberavon pack to fatigue and despair with cruelly accurate touchline kicking. Peter Shadis, one of the replacements, became one of his victims and, despairing, kicked in panic when charged down by Lane to allow Evans's try, which Davies converted.

The Cardiff full back converted another penalty, before Edwards dropped a spectacular goal to take his rather colourless side to the National Stadium.

ABERAVON: G. Rees; L. Keens, A. Rees, I. Hall, K. James; J. Bevan, C. Shell (sub, P. Shadis); C. Williams, M. Howells, B. Lewis, A. Martin, W. Mainwaring, R. Davies, P. Clarke, K. Evans (sub, B. Hancock).

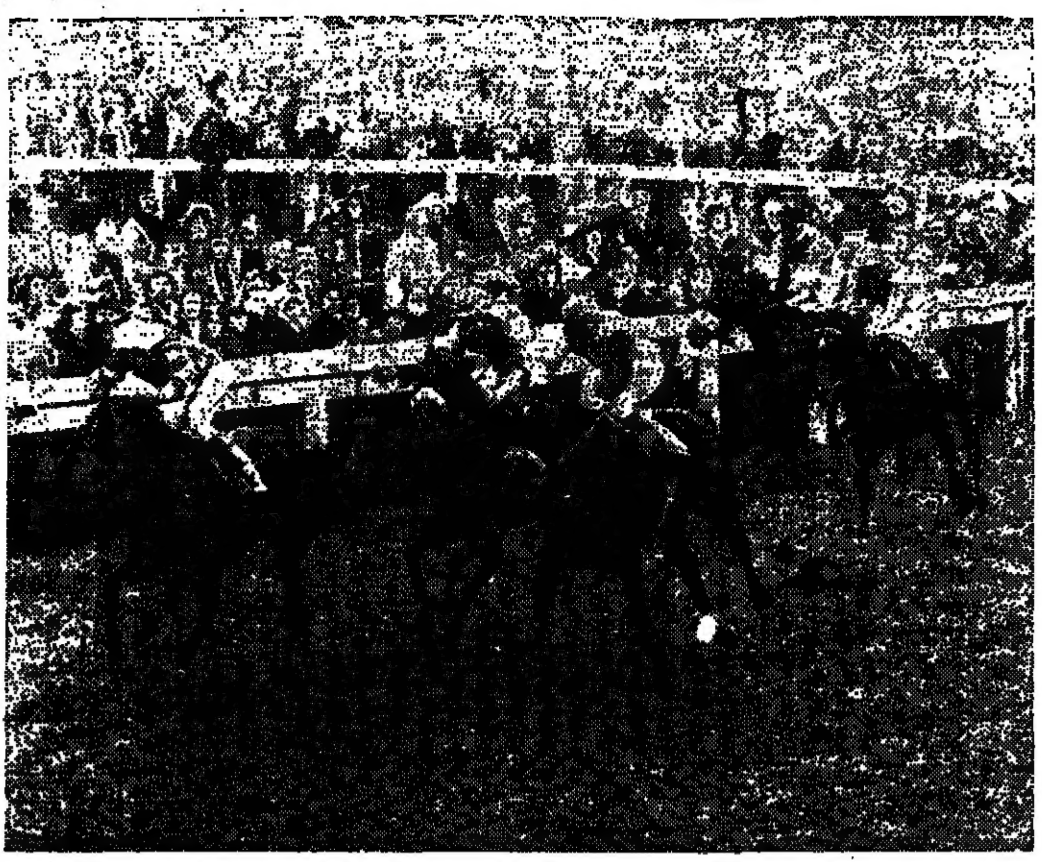
CARDIFF: J. Davies; G. Davies, P. Bolland, A. Finlayson (sub, D. Thomas), C. Camilleri; P. Evans, G. Edwards; B. Nelmes, A. Phillips, M. Knill, L. Robinson, C. Smith, T. Worgan, R. Lane, R. Dudley-Jones.

Referee: Mr J. C. Kelleher (Llantwit Major).

Racing

Blustery lands a calculated gamble

By Michael Seely



An ill wind for backers: Blustery beats the fancied Fluellen (right) and Miss Filbert.

Bobby Lorenz, a top backgammon player, threw a double six when Blustery, whom he owns in partnership with Maurice Manasseh, won the Lincoln Handicap at Doncaster on Saturday. Just as Mr Lorenz earns his success at his favourite gambling game by a quick-witted calculation of the odds, so, in this case were his winnings over Blustery gained by an exceptionally shrewd feat of training by Mark Smyly.

When trained by Alec Kerr and owned by John Baillie, Blustery was a useful two-year-old, beating Consol by 10 lengths at Kempton and winning a good class nursery at the Houghton meeting. On the retirement of Kerr, he was transferred to Mevrick Francis, for whom he showed fair form over middle distances as a three-year-old.

He broke down in the summer and did not race after July. Put on offer last June, he was turned down by Richard Head as being too small to make a jumper. Smyly, who then bought him, soon came to the same conclusion and having advised the horse's new owner of the fact resold Blustery to Messrs Lorenz and Manasseh, who are primarily interested in flat racing.

Last autumn Frank Morby reported to Smyly that Blustery's best distance was probably a mile. Despite being difficult to train on the firm ground and despite having suffered from a virus, Blustery put up a good performance when fourth behind Jane's Joker at Newmarket. Circumstances had combined to make the gelding a well handicapped animal, so Peter Walwyn's former assistant laid his plans with care.

Three outings over hurdles and a good workout with some of Walwyn's three-year-olds shortly before Doncaster convinced Smyly that Blustery was ready to do himself justice. Despite his starting price of 20-1, the five-year-old was at one stage backed from 66-1 to 14-1 during last week. And so, in the capable hands of Dennis McKay, Blustery landed the gamble on Saturday, after surviving an objection and a stewards inquiry.

Blustery won the first prize of £5,925 and Captain Tim Rogers the £250 breeder's prize presented by the Irish promoters of the race, but the honours of the race undoubtedly went to Fluellen. So outpaced at halfway that Eddery had to pull him to the outside of the field to get a clear run, the four-year-old finished like a lion and would have won with a little further to travel.

As suspected Fluellen needs a mile and a quarter. His next target will be the £10,000 Westbury Stakes, run over that distance at Sandown on April 23. Congratulations are due to Harry Wragg for producing this fast-improving animal fit to run for his life first time out.

Once again the lure of the spring double proved a mockery. The first three home were drawn 24, 23 and 25, respectively, showing once again the hopeless disadvantage of a low draw. The Doncaster executive deserve high praise for staging a stirring overture to the flat racing season, but would it not be possible to transfer this important handicap to the round mile which will accommodate 27 runners, one more than the straight course?

The pace of the new season will increase at Ascot next Saturday if the favourites for the 1,000 and 2,000 Guineas, Cloonlara and The Minstrel, take their chances in their respective trials. But, although my first love is flat racing, my own heart and thoughts as well as millions of others will be at Aintree that afternoon where Red Rum, now in his tenth season of racing, will attempt to win the Grand National for the third time.

We are all absurdly sentimental about Red Rum, but Hans Andersen himself could not have created a more improbable fairy story than the saga of this indomitable character and his controversial and individualistic trainer, the Southport garage proprietor, Donald McCain. Discussing what may be Red Rum's last chance of success, McCain was realistic and calm when I spoke to him yesterday. "Red Rum worked well on Aintree racecourse", the trainer said, "he'll run a great race even if it's soft, but if the going's firm will just about win." That seems a fair summing up.

Of Michael Phillips's short list for the race, compiled on the day that the weights appeared, Fort Devon and King Flame will not run. Zeta's Son and Gay Vulgan still stand their ground. Zeta's Son has plenty of weight, but also has a touch of class. The trouble is that the eight-year-old has only one sharp run and everything will have to go his way. To my colleague's pair I would add Andy Pandy and if, by some miracle the ground dries up, Winter Rain.

Fred Rimel's genius at preparing an animal for the National was shown after the publication of the weights when Andy Pandy got the better of that enthralling duel with Sir Garnet at Haydock. A resolute galloper and stayer and a brilliant jumper, Andy Pandy possesses the strongest possible credentials for giving his trainer his fifth triumph at Aintree.

Winter Rain, on the other hand is an animal of the Gay Trip type, whose speed can keep him galloping within himself while Michael Dickinson reserves him for a final burst of finishing pace. Connexions are satisfied that his second to the well-handicapped Harvest at Newbury will have brought him to his peak and will also have taken a slight edge off him, so that Winter Rain can be relaxed and settled at Aintree. If the rain continues to fall I would discard Red Rum and Winter Rain and include Davy Lad in my list.

Paris: Demia scored an easy victory in the Prix Penelope at Saint-Cloud on Saturday, but her 11 rivals looked a moderate bunch and it is unlikely that she will reach the same heights as last year's winner of this race, Pawneese. The filly who was bred by her owner, Marcel Boussac, from one of his own stallions, Abdos, was never out of the first three. She took over the lead early in the straight and quickly raced clear to win by an unchallenged five lengths from Sim Mas with Paix Armee a further three-quarters of a length away in third place.

St-Cloud result

PRIX PENELOPE (Group III: 3-y-o fillies: £11,737: 1m 2f): Demia, b f, by Abdos—Evisa (M Boussac), 8-13 .... G. Rivases 1
Sim Mas, 8-12 .. Y. Saint-Martin 2
Paix Armee, 8-12 .... Y. Josse 3
ALSO RAN: Bold Lady, Bergare, Valbelle, Zaharella, Beaconaire, Curtay, Algrina, Rexana, Lilian.
PARI-MUTUEL: Win, 3.30fr; places, 2.00fr, 2.90fr, 4.10fr. G. Bonaventure. 5l, ¾l. 2min 25.7sec.

Ladbrokes report more support for Red Rum and quote him 10 to 1 clear favourite for the Grand National on Saturday. Other prices: 12 to 1 Andy Pandy, Davy Lad and Gay Vulgan; 14 to 1 Winter Rain (from 16s); 16 to 1 Zeta's Son (from 18s); and 18 to 1 others.

There will be no racing at Hexham today. Kit Patterson, the clerk of the course, said yesterday that the course was covered in snow after a storm during the night and the meeting had been abandoned. The total of National Hunt fixtures lost this season is 111, equalling the previous worst season in 1962-63.

STATE OF GOING (official): Leicester: Heavy. Tomorrow: Sandown Park: Soft. Hereford: Soft.

Leicester programme

2.15 BILLESDON HANDICAP (£436 : 1m)

2	020-	Smooth Display, W. Marshall, 5-9-4	R. Marshall	8
4	033224-	Smithfield Lady, H. Akehurst, 4-9-1	D. Rouse	6
5	000002-	Harrys Fizzale, B. Richmond, 4-9-0	W. Carson	5
8	0010-	Henry Hotfoot, C. Hill, 5-8-7	G. Starkey	1
11	002000-	Cornet Joyce, R. Sharky, 4-8-5	P. Eddery	7
13	030-	Ari Mou, K. Ivory, 4-8-4	S. Jarvis 7	9
14	000000-	Jackalla, P. Robinson, 5-8-4	P. Young 5	8
15	00-	Swanee Music, P. Butler, 4-8-2	P. O'Leary	3
16	000-	Lady Sport, G. Vergette, 5-8-0	M. Kettle	4

2-1 Smooth Display, 7-2 Smithfield Lady, 4-1 Henry Hotfoot, 6-1 Harrys Fizzale, 8-1 Jackalla, 10-1 Cornet Joyce, 16-1 others.

2.45 SIMON DE MONTFORT STAKES (2-y-o : £903 : 5f)

1		Be Friends, M. Prescott, 8-11	—	4
2		Bogey Man, W. Marshall, 8-11	R. Marshall	13
3		Charlotte's Choice, W. Wightman, 8-11	E. Hide	8
6		Dvorak, G. Balding, 8-11	P. Waldron	1
11		Jungle Rock, G. Vergette, 8-11	M. Kettle	6
12		Knight, W. Wharton, 8-11	F. Morby	12
13		Lord Fauntleroy, R. Hollinshead, 8-11	T. Ives	9
14		Main Ingredient, P. Cole, 8-11	G. Baxter	2
16		Oval Court, R. Vibert, 8-11	P. Cook	10
17		Raiza, R. Mason, 8-11	J. Lynch	7
21		The Gate, P. Haslam, 8-11	I. Johnson	5
22		Tudor Tenor, T. Molony, 8-11	N. Thomas	11
23		Double Mirage, G. Smyth, 8-11	G. Lewis	3

5-2 Bogey Man, 4-1 Be Friends, 9-2 Charlotte's Choice, 6-1 Lord Fauntleroy, 8-1 Tudor Tenor, 12-1 Jungle Rock, Double Mirage, Knight, 20-1 others.

3.15 KIBWORTH STAKES (£858 : 1½m)

1	030210-	Dutch Treat (D), H. Price, 4-9-7	B. Taylor	10
3		Gurney Slade, G. Hunter, 5-9-4	W. Carson	8
6		Brown Derby, P. Butler, 4-8-11	P. O'Leary	9
7	00-	Crepani, M. Jarvis, 4-8-11	B. Raymond	3
9	0-	Amiability, Mrs Dingwall, 7-8-8	G. Baxter	1
10		Cernan, N. Hall, 5-8-8	—	5
13	010002-	La Valse, T. Gillam, 4-8-8	J. Tate	4
14	00-	Liscarroll, A. Dalton, 4-8-8	G. Duffield	6
15	304-	Padski, R. Hollinshead, 4-8-8	T. Ives	7
16	0-	Sylvia's Gift, C. Hill, 4-8-8	G. Starkey	2

4-7 Dutch Treat, 11-2 Crepani, 7-1 La Valse, 10-1 Gurney Slade, 14-1 Padski, Sylvia's Gift, 25-1 others.

3.45 WELFORD HANDICAP (£1,230 : 1¼m)

2	112441-	Ski Shop (D), P. Cole, 4-9-5	R. Middleton 5	8
4	020000-	Gold Flight, A. Stevens, 4-8-13	S. Perks	6
6	042-	Enomy, B. Swift, 4-8-9	G. Lewis	4
7	04-	Indian Sol, L. Hall, 5-8-5	F. Morby	5
9	20000-0	Mr Mellors, W. Wharton, 4-8-4	S. Webster 3	2
10	00-	Security Council, G. Vergette, 4-8-3	M. Kettle	9
11		Monumental Moment, R. Vibert, 6-8-1	I. Johnson	1
12	0-	Indian Mark (D), Mrs Dingwall, 6-8-1	—	11
13	130000-	The Guvnor, W. Marshall, 5-7-13	M. Thomas	10
14	0001-	Touch of Spring, P. Kelleway, 4-7-10	E. Bruce 7	3
15	00034-	Ravensbourne, R. Akehurst, 4-7-7	D. Cullen	7

6-4 Ski Shop, 100-30 Enomy, 9-2 The Guvnor, 13-2 Gold Flight, 8-1 Touch of Spring, 16-1 others.

4.15 MAYTIME AUCTION STAKES (2-y-o : £770 : 5f)

1		Merchantman, N. Adam, 8-9	T. McKeown	6
8		Galliford, P. Haslam, 8-1	I. Johnson	8
15		Lonely Voice, C. Hill, 7-11	K. Lewis	3
17		Bright Charlie, T. Fairhurst, 7-10	C. Eccleston	5
19		Jewel Case, R. Smyth, 7-10	T. Cain	10
20		Loppingdales, D. Weeden, 7-10	P. Young 5	2
22		Rocky Boy, J. Spilling, 7-10	R. Still	7
23		Last Melody, P. Haslam, 7-9	R. Curant	9
25		Another Omen, C. Brittain, 7-7	C. Rodrigues 5	4
30		Love Triangle, P. Cole, 7-7	R. Street	1

9-4 Another Omen, 7-2 Jewel Case, 11-2 Love Triangle, 8-1 Loppingdales, Last Melody, 12-1 Merchantman, Bright Charlie, 16-1 Galliford, 20-1 others.

4.45 LODDINGTON STAKES (3-y-o : £856 : 6f)

2	00000-	Colditz Captive, W. Marshall, 8-11	R. Marshall	13
4	0-	Even Tempered, P. Haslam, 8-11	R. Curant	2
7		Port Justice, P. Kelleway, 8-11	B. Taylor	5
8		Raffstone, A. Stevens, 8-11	S. Perks	11
9	0000-	Rising Rhythm, S. Norton, 8-11	G. Oldroyd	1
10	020000-	Rocket Lancer, Mrs Lomax, 8-11	P. Eddery	7
12	0-	Bronte Boy, L. Barratt, 8-8	G. Sexton	10
13		Burglars Boy, L. Barratt, 8-8	C. Williams	16
14	00-	Cindermouse, C. Miller, 8-8	—	17
15	0000-	Correct Approach, P. Cole, 8-8	G. Baxter	9
19	00224-	Friendly Choice, P. Haslam, 8-8	I. Johnson	14
23	03200-	Jene Reppin, R. Jarvis, 8-8	M. Thomas	12
25	00003-	Meladream, N. Adam, 8-8	T. McKeown	15
28	002-	Moomba, G. P.-Gordon, 8-8	E. Eldin	8
33	033420-	Rings and Things, R. Smyth, 8-8	B. Raymond	3
34	0000-	Stiff Sentence, B. Swift, 8-8	G. Lewis	18
36	440004-	Track Belle, R. Mason, 8-8	J. Lynch	6
37	0-	Waveland, J. Spilling, 8-8	T. Ives	4
38	043304-	Win-Lass, G. Toft, 8-8	O. Gray	13

11-4 Jene Reppin, 4-1 Moomba, 6-1 Stiff Sentence, 8-1 Rocket Lancer, Meladream, 10-1 Friendly Choice, Rings and Things, Colditz Captive, 20-1 others.

Leicester selections

By Our Racing Staff
2.15 Harry's Fizzale. 2.45 Charlotte's Choice. 3.15 Dutch Treat. 3.45 The Guvnor. 4.15 Lonely Voice. 4.45 Jene Reppin.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent
2.15 Smooth Display. 2.45 Be Friends. 3.15 Crepani. 3.45 The Guvnor. 4.15 Another Omen. 4.45 Jene Reppin.

Doncaster results

1.45: 1, The White Tower (33-1); 2, Prince Henham (4-1 fav); 3, Force Ten (25-1). 16 ran.

2.15: 1, Crown Bowler (2-1 fav); 2, Millionaire (4-1); 3, Sir Galiva (33-1). 14 ran.

2.55: 1, Blustery (20-1); 2, Fluellen (9-1); 3, Miss Filbert (8-1 jt fav). 26 ran. Rhodomantade 8-1 jt fav.

3.30: 1, Portal Lad (9-1); 2, Goldhills Pride (14-1); 3, Atlantic Crossing (33-1). 17 ran. Abode 4-1 fav.

4.0: 1, Sharp Pad (15-2); 2, Lime Grove (4-6 fav); 3, Friendly Baker (8-1). 9 ran.

4.30: 1, Silk Lady (8-1); 2, Swinging Pan (5-1); 3, Tavrina (11-2). 13 ran. Mariolaine 9-4 fav.

5.05: 1, Gay Spartan (11-10 fav); 2, Tam's Festival (12-1); 3, Approaching (13-2). 7 ran.

Newbury

2.0: 1, Harvest (7-1); 2, Winter Rain (6-4 fav); 3, Hanswell (9-2). 9 ran.

2.30: 1, Gambling Prince (100-30 fav); 2, Winslow Boy (10-1); 3, All Forever (12-1). 15 ran.

3.35: 1, Toureen (5-1); 2, Queen's College (11-8 fav); 3, Rainbow Trout (11-1). 15 ran. Marine Parade and Cameo Ship did not run.

4.05: 1, Rough House (9-4 fav); 2, Smilbo Snaggins (7-1); 3, Conceded (4-1). 9 ran.

4.35: 1, Coolafancy (10-1); 2, Big Muddy (33-1); 3, Desert Wind (2-1 fav). 16 ran.

5.5: 1, Bentley Green (100-30 fav); 2, Prime Justice (8-1); 3, Fruit Hill (12-1). 15 ran. Scot's Fall withdrawn.

5.35: 1, Popples Love (8-1); 2, Deep Memories (11-2); 3, King Commander (4-1). 14 ran. Compton Cassidy 5-2 fav. Cadogan Lane did not run.

Bangor-on-Dee

2.15: 1, Royal Archer (11-10 fav); 2, Morning Princess (12-1); 3, Lyne Boy (33-1). 14 ran. Guido Fawkes did not run.

2.45: 1, High Ken (11-8 fav); 2, Burning Star (20-1). 5 ran. Chukka did not run.

3.15: 1, Quickapenny (3-2 fav); 2, Pride of Olly (20-1); 3, Third Redeemer (11-4). 16 ran.

3.45: 1, Jer (16-1); 2, Embassy (33-1); 3, Fortia (14-1). 11 ran. Rossborough 7-4 fav.

4.15: 1, Tenspir (7-1); 2, Renworth Boy (33-1); 3, Mr Pinchins (9-2). 11 ran. I'm Smart 100-30 fav. Cloud Park did not run.

4.45: 1, Dusky (evens fav); 2, Changing World (9-1); 3, What-A-Prince (33-1). 16 ran. Jonedrich and General Disaster did not run.

Hexham

1.30: 1, Rambling Jack (33-1); 2, Arctic Challenge (3-1); 3, Wolton Lad (10-11 fav). 11 ran.

2.0: 1, Sca-fell (14-1); 2, Simallion (5-4 fav); 3, Brasidas (12-1). 10 ran.

2.30: 1, Annas Prince (9-4); 2, Fighting King (13-1); 3, Jane Again (7-2). 8 ran. Coffee Boy 6-4 fav.

3.0: 1, Kelton Lad (11-10 fav); 2, Half A Sixpence (5-4); 3, Peapack (11-2). 5 ran.

3.30: 1, Cobblers Reef (8-1); 2, In Chancery (5-1); 3, Chinook (25-1). 21 ran. River Cane 7-2 fav.

4.0: 1, Huggy (13-8 fav); 2, Royal Tempest (6-1); 3, Rydal Mount (25-1). 16 ran. Allerdale did not run.

Devon and Exeter

2.15: 1, Court Melody (11-4); 2, Sugar Palm (4-1); 3, Silver Peace (7-1). Benly Boy 7-4 fav. 16 ran.

2.45: 1, Sea Picture (6-1); 2, Desert Gold (9-4 fav); 3, Blackwater Hill (10-1). 16 ran. Miramoor and Pyrosyl did not run.

3.15: 1, Flickity Prince (5-1); 2, Marcia's Mark (20-1); 3, Levantine (10-1). 6 ran. Clifton Fair 6-4 fav. Perambulate did not run.

3.45: 1, Corragio (9-1); 2, Double Whiskey (10-1); 3, Yule Log (9-2). 10 ran. Grey Dove 4-1 fav. Uncle Cyril, What a Palaver, Magic Note and Sackville did not run.

The rest of the meeting was abandoned because of poor visibility.

Rugby League

Bloody, bandaged, bowed: Chisnall personifies St Helens.

Leeds speed to place in final

Leeds made sure of their place in the Rugby League Cup final at Wembley when they won a fine game, in which they always looked the better team. Leeds won by a try, two dropped goals and a penalty (7 pts) to a penalty goal (2 pts).

Leeds scored the only try in spectacular style 13 minutes from the end. St Helens, who dominated the scrummages, began well, but their pack had to play second fiddle to a Leeds six, in which man of the match David Ward, Steve Pitchford and Graham Eccles were outstanding.

For St Helens, the full back Geoffrey Pimblett, the loose forward, Harry Pinner, and the second row man, David Hull, made plenty of chances, but the Leeds tackling was excellent.

The real difference between the two sides was in speed. This was never better illustrated than by the Leeds try. Leslie Dyl, the centre, outpaced the St Helens cover over 30 yards before sending John Atkinson, the wing, over.

St Helens created plenty of chances, even in their unhappy second half, but all they could manage was a penalty goal by Pimblett. The full back, Brian Murrell, kicked a penalty goal for Leeds and the centre, John Holmes, dropped two goals.

Harry Poole, coach of Rugby League Cup semi-finalists Hull Kingston Rovers, died on Saturday, aged 41. He is believed to have had a heart attack. Poole had coached Rovers since November, 1975, and his prediction that they would win an important trophy within two seasons, came nearer fulfilment when they hammered the Cup favourites, Castleford, in the quarter-final round to earn a tie against Widnes.

Poole's long and distinguished career as a player included spells at Hunslet, Hull Kingston Rovers whom he led to Wembley in 1964, and Leeds. He captained Great Britain in Australia in 1966, but early injury prevented him playing in an international. Poole, who lived in Castleford, leaves a widow and two daughters.

French to dope test players

Paris, March 27.—Jean-Pierre Soissow, the French Minister of Sport, has announced that dope tests will be carried out among France's first division football players as a further step towards stopping drug-taking in French sports. His decision came a few days after his announcement that there were positive dope tests in the Paris-Nice cycle race

Cuban athlete impresses

Havana, Cuba, March 27.—Silvio Leonard, the Cuban sprinter who missed the Montreal Olympics because of a foot injury, clocked 9.92 seconds in the 100 metres at an athletics meeting here last night. Timing arrangements for the race were not up to the standard required by the International Amateur Athletics Federation for electrically-timed performances.

Skiing

Parallel fails to recapture first rapture of its dawn

From John Hennessy
Solynieve, March 27

The Alpine skiing season ended here in the Sierra Nevada of South Spain in a crescendo of professional ennui. The winners of the two parallel slaloms, yesterday and today, were Christa Zechmeister (West Germany) and Manfred Brunner (Austria). But, since the leading individual World Cup places had already been decided, the gold medals would be destined for a humble place on any sideboard.

The winners of the silver medals were Marie-Thérèse Nadig (Switzerland) and Klaus Heidegger (Austria), and of the bronze, Annemarie Moser (Austria) and Bruno Nockler (Italy). Were it an event of any moment it would be impossible to visualize Ingemar Stenmark (Sweden), already a winner of the World Cup, being beaten in the first round by Leonard Stock (Austria), and on both runs at that.

The parallel slalom, like many of the more unfortunate developments in modern sport, owes its origin to the United States, where the professional circuit felt the need to offer the almighty eye of television something with instant impact and within easy camera range. It comes about as close to Alpine skiing as does John Player League Cricket at home to and England-Australia Test match or the inter-city tennis in North America to the deeds of derring-do performed at Wimbledon.

One Italian observer, not old enough to be regarded as a reactionary traditionalist, dismisses this weekend's races as "langlauf skiing". Certainly a Scandinavian would have had not difficulty in beating the drag lift up the hill to the start. His words received confirmation when a young skier of the most modern ambitions stemmed his way blithely down the course from top to bottom afterwards without a hint of anxiety.

Yet it would smack of arrogance to condemn parallel skiing altogether, because it at least offers the public a view at close range of man pitted against man (though in fact combined times over two runs decided the issue), even if over a course of only about 400 yards and insignificant vertical drop. At least it can be seen as an entertaining irrelevance.

Parallel skiing was launched in the World Cup in the false dawn of 1975 at Val Gardena, Italy. At that time Gustavo Thoeni, a local hero, and Stenmark were involved in a close struggle for the World Cup and they fought it out eventually (in the Italian's favour) in this sideshow event. One can well imagine the excitement it engendered though, of course, it is much like matching Lasse Viren against Brendan Foster over 800 metres, or, more to the point, tossing up for a place in the European Cup Final after a drawn semi-final tie. Since 1975 the parallel slalom has become established as the season's finale, but it has not been able to recapture that first rapture.

It is unfortunate to end on a somewhat jaundiced note, because Solynieve deserves something better. If, this year, there has not been quite enough snow for their purpose, this is a fate suffered from time to time by all Alpine ski reports. In any case, moving the races higher up the hill to Borreguiles causes surprisingly few problems.

If there were a fountain here, I would want to throw in a peseta or two to guarantee a return trip to this enchanting corner of the world. As it is, a coin tossed from the cable car into the white wilderness will have to serve the same purpose. We bid Solynieve, therefore, not "Adios" but "Hasta la Vista".

Swimming

Thorne's effort has stamp of rare quality

By a Special Correspondent

The ASA national short course championships sponsored by Coca-Cola ended on a high note on Saturday with some of the most dramatic racing of the four-day meeting, but still without a single British or English record having been broken. The championship will be remembered for that reason and for the names of Sharron Davies (Port of Plymouth), Cheryl Brazendale (Norbreck Castle) and Mark Thorne (City of Coventry) who between them won nine senior titles.

The success of the two 14-year-old girls was expected, as both are reigning British champions and that inevitably diminished the impact of their fine performances. But the previous best of the 18-year-old Bristol boy had been a silver medal in the 1976 butterfly sprint. It was Thorne's determined effort in Saturday's 440 yards individual medley that stamped him as having that rare quality which, transplanted into Joe Bugner, would make him a live contender for Ali's heavyweight title.

MEN: 440 yards individual medley: 1, M. Thorne (Coventry), 4min 59.67sec; 2, A. McClatchey (Warrender), 4:59.75; 3, D. Cleworth (Manchester), 4:40.33. 220 yards breaststroke: 1, L. Atkinson (Cardiff), 2min 37.11sec; 2, B. O'Brien (Coventry), 2:27.58; 3, H. Gibson (Orion), 2:30.81. 110 yards freestyle: 1, D. Dunne (Beckenham), 54.39sec; 2, R. Burrell (Southampton), 54.93; 3, T. Smith (Radcliffe), 55.09. **WOMEN:** 110 yards breaststroke: 1, M. Kelly (Cumbernauld), 1min 14.80sec; 2, D. Rudd (Coventry), 1:14.82; 3, C. Mason (Wasps), 1:17.59. 220 yards backstroke: 1, J. Beasley (Junction 10), 2min 21.64sec; 2, S. Davies (Plymouth), 2:24.34; 3, A. James (Cardiff), 2:24.67. 220 yards freestyle: 1, C. Brazendale (Norbreck Castle), 2min 6.60sec; 2, D. Hill (Portsmouth Northsea), 2:9.90; 3, M. Houston (Leeds), 2:10.60.

For the record

Rugby Union

Welsh Cup Semi-final round

Cardiff	15	Aberavon	6
Newport	7	Abbw Vale	3

Club matches

Abertillery	12	Cross Keys	7
Bath	25	Richmond	4
Bingley	13	Keighley	7
Birkenhead Pk	25	Edinburgh Wdrs	6
Blackheath	12	Bedford	22
Blaydon	45	North Durham	0
Boroughmuir	25	Jedforest	6
Bridgend	20	Newbridge	6
Bridgwater & A	12	St Mary's Hosp	3
Caldy	6	Burton	7
Clifton	13	St Ives	12
Coventry	6	London Irish	3
Fylde	3	W of Scotland	10
Gala	4	Hawick	11
Hartlepool R	16	Roundhay	9
Headingley	10	New Brighton	0
Heaton Moor	24	Leigh	6
Hull & E R	19	Halifax	12
Jordanhill	17	Glasgow Acads	0
Kersal	13	Colwyn Bay	6
Keswick	31	Smith Bros	0
Langholm	6	Kelso	22
Liverpool	37	Cheltenham	0
Llanelli	22	Heath	18
Lond Scottish	7	Moseley	7
London Welsh	20	Harlequins	0
Macclesfield	8	Blackburn	3
Manchester	6	Orrell	0
Metro Police	0	Oxford	6
Morley	57	Percy Park	0
Nottingham	17	Broughton Pk	4
Nuneaton	3	Harrogate	16
O Brodleians	3	Bramley	4
O Parkonians	15	Eccles	3
Otley	11	Wakefield	54
Penarth	17	Birmingham	0
Plymouth Alb	21	Maesteg	15
Pontypool	17	Swansea	15
Preston Grass	3	Durham City	20
Redruth	22	Torquay Ath	3
Rochdale	10	Lymm	6
Roslyn Park	17	Bristol	3
Rugby	13	Huddersfield	12
Sale	14	Leicester	23
Sandal	10	Morpeth	26
Saracens	3	Gloucester	9
Sedgley Park	12	Newcastle-u-L	3
Somerset Police	10	Sidmouth	14
S Wales Police	8	Pontypridd	25
Southport	7	Stoke	3
Streatham/C	52	US Portsmouth	13
Tredegar	34	Taunton	3
Vale of Lune	20	Sheffield	8
Wasps	20	Bradford	0
Waterloo	36	Northampton	3
Watsonians	6	Gosforth	23
Widnes	25	Furness	0
Wilmslow	6	Middlesbrough	18
Winnington Pk	9	Wrexham	3

Rugby League

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Under 19: Great Britain 6, France 2.

CHALLENGE CUP: Semi-final round: Leeds 7, St Helens 2.

Yesterday

FIRST DIVISION: Barrow 9, Wigan 17; Bradford Northern 16, Oldham 10; Featherstone Rovers 11, Warrington 3; Rochdale Hornets 11, Salford 10; Wakefield Trinity 41, Leigh 5.

SECOND DIVISION: Batley 17, Doncaster 10; Blackpool Borough 7, Dewsbury 21; Bramley 17, Keighley 9; Halifax 14, Huyton 9; Huddersfield 16, York 13; Swinton 5, Whitehaven 15.

Tennis

ROTTERDAM: WCT tournament: Men's singles, quarter-final round: W. Fibak (Poland) beat C. Barazzutti (Italy), 6—0, 6—1; M. Cox (GB) beat C. Drysdale (SA), 6—3, 6—3; I. Nastase (Romania) beat J. Alexander (Australia), 6—4, 6—2; R. Stockton (US) beat V. Amritraj (India), 6—1, 6—3. Semi-final round: R. Stockton beat W. Fibak, 6—7, 7—6, 6—4; I. Nastase beat M. Cox, 6—4, 7—6. Final: R. Stockton beat I. Nastase, 2—6, 6—3, 6—3.

CAIRO: Men's singles: Semi-final round: F. Gebert (W. Germany) beat C. Leicher (Australia), 3—6, 6—4, 6—1; F. Jauffret (France) beat P. Dupre (US), 2—6, 6—4, 6—3. Final: F. Jauffret beat F. Gebert, 6—3, 7—5, 6—4. Women's singles, semi-final round: K. Ebbinghaus (W. Germany) beat H. Balogh, 6—1, 6—1.

CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA: La Costa tournament: Third round: T. Waltke beat S. Smith, 6—4, 0—6, 7—6. Quarter-final round: B. Borg (Sweden) beat T. Gorman, 7—6, 9—7, 7—5; B. Gottfried beat T. Waltke, 7—6; 7—8, 6—4.

SAN ANTONIA, TEXAS: Final: B. J. King beat M. Hamm, 6—3, 3—6, 6—3.

Cricket

PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD: Gillette Cup final: Trinidad 95 (34.5 overs); Barbados 97-2. Barbados won by 8 wickets.

Golf

NDOLA: Zambia Open tournament: 212: C. O'Connor, snr (Ireland), 73, 72, 68; 214: B. Barnes (GB), 67, 71, 76; G. Cullen (GB), 69, 72, 73; T. Horton (GB), 70, 74, 70; 215: J. Livingstone (GB), 71, 70, 74; B. Waites, 73, 70, 72; K. Brown, 73, 71, 70; 216: J. Fowler (GB), 76, 68, 72; 217: L. Higgins (Ireland), 70, 71, 76; M. James (GB), 72, 72, 73.

HILTON HEAD ISLAND: 200: T. Watson, 67, 67, 66; 204: G. Marsh, 65, 72, 67; 205: R. Floyd, 67, 72, 66; 207: G. Cailie, 70, 69, 68; 208: B. Crenshaw, 66, 74, 68; E. Sneed, 71, 68, 69; 209: G. Player, 71, 70, 68; L. Lott, 68, 70, 71; 210: J. Nicklaus, 68, 73, 70; H. Irwin, 66, 73, 72; B. Kratzert, 71, 68, 71; J. Schroeder, 71, 71, 68; 211: G. Koch, 70, 71, 70; 212: B. Casper, 74, 69, 69; G. Miller, 73, 70, 70. Other foreign scores: 215: D. Graham, 73, 72, 70; 217: B. Cole, 75, 72, 72; 223: J. Lister, 71, 74, 78.

SINGAPORE: 277: Hsu Chi San, 67, 71, 69, 70; 278: Mya Aye, 70, 66, 72, 70; B. Arda, 68, 73, 70, 67; 279: Y. Suzuki, 69, 74, 70, 66; 280: Hsu Sheng-San, 68, 70, 76, 67; 281: G. Burrows, 70, 76, 67, 68; 282: Ho Ming Chung, 64, 76, 68, 64; Hsieh Min-Nam, 73, 68, 71, 70; 284: W. Peddy, 71, 75, 73, 67; K. Hirano, 73, 71, 70, 66; P. Thomson, 73, 73, 70, 68; E. Nival, 69, 70, 75, 75; P. Ngaronprom, 70, 69, 75, 72; 285: Hung-I-a, 71, 71, 75, 68.

Show jumping

ANTWERP: Prix Zangersheide: 1, D. Broome (GB), Heatwave, 0 flts, 31.6sec; 2, J. Kernan (Ireland), Condy, 0, 31.6; 3, E. Cupper, Le Champion, 0, 32.8. Prix Jaeger Le Coultre: 1, C. Bradley (GB), Berna, 49.3; 2, N. Mancinelli (Italy), Ambassador, 50; 3, C. Huysegons, Katapult, 51.1. Grand Prix Garet: 1, R. d'Inzeo (Italy), Bellevue and F. Ligges (W Germany), Genius, 0 flts; 3, E. Wauters, Berryl II, 4 flts. Prix Kredietbank: 1, D. Broome, Ballywill and Sportsman, 0, 81; 2, F. Mathy, Caf Luron and Dreamer, 0, 86.2; 3, M. Pyrah (GB), Artsey Court and Law Court, F. Ligges, Genius and Wapiti, 0, 86.4.

Rowing

KINGSTON: Head of the river: 1, University of London 17min 53sec; 2, Thames Tradesmen 18min 03sec; 3, Kingston 18min 12sec; 4, Vesta 18min 17sec; 5, University of Durham 18min 27sec. Senior "A": Thames Tradesmen II, 18min 51sec; Schools: St Paul's 19min 06sec; Senior "C": Kingston, 19min 15sec; Novice: Tiffin School, 19min 47sec; Women: Civil Service, 21min 17sec; Quad sculls: Kingston, 19min 57sec; Fours: Wallingford/Abingdon, 20min 03sec; Senior "C": Maidenhead, 21min 07sec; Schools: Tiffin School, 21min 51sec.

Cross-country

HALTON: Representative match (6 miles): 1, English CCU, 45 pts; 2, British Universities, 58 pts; 3, Combined Services, 85 pts. Individual: 1, G. Hannon (British Universities), 29min 5sec; 2, J. Goater (Combined Services), 29.8; 3, P. Standing (ECCU), 29.10.

CHINGFORD: Orion Harriers' 15 miles open race: 1, J. H. Langford (Ranelagh H), 1hr 32min 55sec; 2, N. Fisher (Harlow AC), 1:33:46; 3, R. A. Harrison (Airedale and Spen Valley), 1:34:33. Team: 1, Highgate H, 4:56:9; 2, Walthamstow AC, 4:57:27; 3, Bournemouth AC, 4:57:48.

Swimming

MONTREAL: Canadian short-course National championships: Men's 400 metres freestyle: S. Badger (Canada), 3min 51.50sec (short-course record).

Road walking

BEXLEY: 10 miles: 1, P. Hodkinson (Metropolitan Police), 1hr 25min 41sec; 2, D. Maynard (Cambridge Harriers), 1hr 25min 51sec; 3, C. Flint (Metropolitan Police), 1hr 32min 15sec. Team: 1, Metropolitan Police, 5pt; 2, Cambridge Harriers, 13.

Fencing

WARSAW: International team sabre tournament: Poland beat GB, 15—3; W Germany beat Cuba, 8—8 on ratio; Poland beat Italy, 8—8 on ratio; Hungary beat Poland, 9—3.

Commercial Property

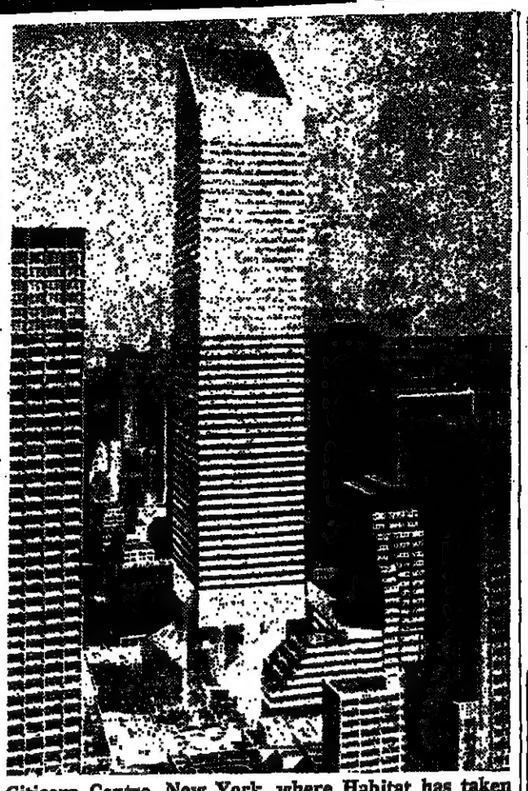
British deals on Continent

British agents through their offices abroad continue to play an active part in the Continental property scene, as much in a local as an international context. For instance, Weatherall Green and Smith report the sale at a price close to DM 4m (about £987,654) of a primarily office investment in Munich which contains one of the best-known restaurants in the city, Humplmayer, in Maximillianplatz 16. The building is close to the stock exchange and contains a total floor area of 2,000 sq m, which includes 1,500 sq m of offices and some residential accommodation, all let. The restaurant is on the ground floor and there is a night club on the first floor. The entire property was put on the market because of the retirement of the vendor, who also operated the restaurant. The buyer was a local businessman and the restaurant is being offered for letting, also through Weatheralls, to a new operator.

In Antwerp work has started on a shop and office complex at Groenplaats, close to the cathedral. The development is being carried out by the Philips Pension Fund, of Eindhoven, and will include 4,000 sq m of shopping on two levels. With direct access to the Metro. There will be five floors of offices above, giving a total of about 11,500 sq m. It will be fully air-conditioned and is due for completion late next year. Bernard Thorpe and G. De Waendeleer acted in the sale of the site, formerly occupied by Bon Marche-Vaxelaire, a department store, and has been retained by the pension fund as sole letting agent.

In London Westmoreland Properties have sold a long leasehold interest in their premises at 33 Grosvenor Street and 2 Three Kings Yard, Westminster, to the Malawi Government for use by its High Commission. The lease has about 56 years unexpired at a rent of £1,500 a year with geared rent reviews in 1990 and 2015. It was being offered for sale at £900,000. The sale was through Knight Frank and Rutley; Savills acted for the Malawi Government. The building provides about 8,800 sq ft of offices and has some elegant panelled rooms and a fine main staircase. It was restored in the mid-1960s and further renovated by Westmoreland, who have acquired new offices at 84 Grosvenor Street.

In another London transaction Telephone Rentals, which moved its main offices to Milton Keynes last December, has let its former offices in Knightsbridge House, Knightsbridge, Westminster, to Shell UK. The space leased comprises the entire eighth to eleventh floors inclusive, which provide about 35,000 sq ft net of offices, together with 1,700 sq ft of storage. The lease expires in June, 1993, and the rent realized was about £320,000 a year exclusive.



Citicorp Centre, New York, where Habitat has taken an entire floor for its first American store.

Moss and Partners acted for Telephone Rentals.

Crowne Freeholds has let the three top floors, 10,000 sq ft of its office building, Crowne House, in Southwark Street, to Courage. The rent is £60,000 a year with a review after three years. Allsop and Co, and Birrane and Partners, of Southwark, were joint letting agents. The rest of the building, amounting to about 13,100 sq ft, including basement space, is immediately available at £79,500 a year. The building is modern and air-conditioned.

At Sheldon, near Birmingham, Ariel House has been let to the Severn-Trent Water Authority at a rent rising to £40,000 a year. The building has about 36,000sq ft on five floors, with parking for 50 cars on the site, and is on Coventry Road, about five miles from the centre of Birmingham, close to the airport and National Exhibition Centre. The scheme was carried out jointly by Town and City Properties and the Legal and General Assurance Co, who were advised throughout by Healey and Baker and Jones Martin Fleetwood.

The forward sale of a five-storey office block to be built in Andover Road, Winchester, has been agreed by Tarmac Properties, which has already pre-let the entire block to the Property Services Agency. The investment has been acquired by institutional clients of Knight Frank and Rutley for more than £2m. The building, due for completion in the summer of 1978, will provide a total of 45,000 sq ft with individual floor areas ranging from 10,500 sq ft on the first level to 1,200 sq ft at the top, with parking for 80 cars.

A rent of £78,000 a year exclusive, or £7.50 a sq ft is being asked for an office suite in Leon House, High Street, Croydon, which has been put on to the market by Brooke Bond. The accommodation covers 10,400 sq ft and is on the fifteenth floor. It includes a board room, a dining room and various executives' offices. The rent is one of the highest to be quoted in Croydon for more than a year. Two further floors are also available in the same building. They are the ninth, with 11,200 sq ft at £67,200 a year; and the tenth, at £33,600 a year. Joint letting agents are Richard Ellis and Harold Williams Bennett, of Croydon.

In New York, Habitat has taken a store of 40,000 sq ft in the new Citicorp Centre in Manhattan. It will be its first store in America and will cover an entire floor of the huge office tower, which will provide a total of 1,300,000 sq ft. The Market, as the shopping section is called, will cover about 100,000 sq ft on three levels and forms the entrance to the main building. Another British tenant signed up is Empire Catering. The Hammond Phillips Partnership, of London, is the sole European letting agent for the shopping section, which is due to be opened in October. The whole building is expected to be completed early next year, as the headquarters of Citibank.

Gerald Ely

Fire Angel
Her Majesty's

Irving Wardle

Following in fateful succession to *Mardi Gras*, here is another plucky British attempt to hit the American big time, though perhaps some stronger adjective is required for an English show that tries to restage *The Merchant of Venice* in New York's Mafia underworld. There is a good Jewish word for that.

For a start, the Rialto becomes the Venice bar, incorporating a mobsters' hangout with an upstairs mansion for the aged supremo, Don Piranha, who evidently runs his family on unusually democratic lines, announcing that a new Godfather will be elected on the strength of a test open to anyone who can pay the entrance fee of $1m. That takes care of the casket scene. It also send young Angelo, a hoodlum who also happens to run a fleet of ships, off to raise the money from a loan-shark called Barach, whose daughter Deborah is on the point of eloping with Angelo's brother. By such means, Bassanio, Antonio, Gratiano and other Shakespearian originals are digested within the family; not without some gains in neat plotting. Barach, for instance, now accepts a Christian dinner invitation, thereby giving Deborah her chance to escape.

But as the evening proceeds it gets steadily clearer that the authors (Paul Bentley and Roger Haines) have set to work equipped with no more than an opening bright idea.

To complete the story, Barach is finally spared and reimbursed by the new Godfather, after a Mercy song with raindrop accompaniment; this representing Angelo's discovery of the "wonder world of love" and the dawn of an era of enlightened mobsterdom.

This rubbish is enacted amid *changing scenes* of smoothly mechanized display by Johanna Bryant, who scores some noteworthy instantaneous contrasts between garish night-life and carnival and the interiors of rabbinical sobriety. Of the cast, Julian Littman reacts with flick-knife speed as Angelo's brother, the two lovers (especially Helen Chappelle) have voices that ride the pit even mikeless.

Mr Haines's score, part stolid vocal part-writing, part rock, displays an individual taste for emphatic falsetto climaxes of rage and grief. They form the essence of C. T. Wilkinson's Barach which zooms repeatedly *from modest restraint to volcanic screams*. As is the custom these days, the whole piece is sung; which intensifies the suspicion that the authors have tried to cross *The Merchant* with *Romeo and Juliet*.

James Bond's new music man

Marvin Hamlisch

For reasons at least half due to British tax policies, the producers of the enormously financially rewarding Bond films have had to look around for new talent to write the music.

Yorkshire-born John Barry, the composer mostly associated with 007, with Oscars for *Born Free* and *Lion In Winter*, who used to enjoy a commanding view of the Houses of Parliament, has moved to California. His successor Marvin Hamlisch, leaving his Pulitzer prize and Oscars for *The Way We Were* and *The Sting* in New York, is at work overlooking London's Green Park with a piano, a moveola, a tape recorder, all the previous Bond recordings and a couple of BeeGee records to aid the muse.

Hamlisch says he would not dare start imposing a new musical style on the films at this point. "A lot of the stuff I'm going to write will be reflective of what has been done already. The only thing that will be really different will be the actual theme song which is much more tongue in cheek. It's not about the criminal, like Goldfinger, or a title song like *Live and Let Die*, which were pompous, big songs. This is just the opposite. This song is about Bond himself and it is very sexy and soft and all about how fantastic the hero is." To prove it Hamlisch sat at his piano and very nervously gave me a preview in a style somewhere between Noel Coward and Elton John. "you can call it 'The Theme from *The Spy Who Loved Me*'," he said, "because I'm not going *to give away the title*. Bond goes floating over a precipice, the song comes up and hopefully it will be a laugh and a surprise. I've learned my lesson from *Chorus Line*."

For Hamlisch, who, at 32, looks scarcely older than the Juilliard school pupil he once was, is also the veteran composer of that Pulitzer-winning musical. "There's a song in it called *Tits and Arse*", he says. "And when we originally did it off Broadway it never got a laugh, but nothing, never. We did it for about two weeks and just nobody smiled, and I turned to Michael Bennett one day and said "I know it's funny, but it boggles my mind that this song doesn't get a laugh". Well, we thought, they're not laughing, so we started to write another song. So one day I went to see a preview, and I looked through the programme and it said *Tits and Arse*, and I thought 'Now I see why they *don't laugh—because they've* seen it written down beforehand'. So we changed the title to *Dance Ten, Looks Three* and from that day on it *stopped the show*."

The New York-raised son of the late director of the Vienna Opera Board, Hamlisch is very analytical and canny about the details of his career. Knowing how difficult it is to follow a huge success in the eyes of the critics he has tried to vacillate elusively between movies and shows, recordings, cabaret at the piano and orchestral performances on the rostrum. When he was 20 and desperately looking around for a Broadway show which no one would offer such a youngster, he was invitedd to play the piano at a party which turned out to be for Sam Spiegel, the producer. Spiegel told him he was making a new movie. Hamlisch asked to read the script and a few days later sent round a few tunes for the new film. That was *The Swimmer*. He sat with the editor figuring out the story in seconds and making the music fit. It took him three or four movies, he says to understand the exact function of an editor, and after that he was on his own. On the Bond film he has 12 reels to score, runs them to himself in his hotel room over and over again, writes a big M on the frame for music, turns off the sound, turns to the piano and *starts counting with one eye* on Roger Moore sneaking up on the pyramids late at night. He goes to bed at midnight, sleeps till eleven, soothes his stomach with lots of milk, cheese and a general surfeit of cholesterol intake, doesn't "drink drink" or "smoke smoke" as he puts it, works in his pyjamas and refused an invitation to dine with Frank Sinatra when he was in town because he wanted to mull over his work alone.

With this sort of discipline he hopes to score three reels a week and leave plenty of time for any revisions the director Lewis Gilbert might have in mind. "In a couple of weeks I'll bring Lewis over and play him what I've written with the picture running on the moveola bm-bm-bm-bm-bm-bm in the background.

"If there's something he doesn't like, I'd much prefer knowing it then than in front *of the entire orchestra with 70* men looking on—70 men and one woman."

Hamlisch has one of those easy American comedy routines which compsers like Sammy Khan have made almost as famous as their music. He does it on stage and *off. As* a child he was being groomed as a pianist but he says he would go onto the podium to play his prelude and go into an immediate state *of shock. It became quite clear* to him from an early age that he would never perform. Ironically, now, he cannot wait to get on a stage and keeps auditioning *for his sister who is* a casting director. Two musician roles in films were offered to him but he lost his nerve. But with eight reels of Bond under his belt he will jet back to the States just to be on stage at the Academy Awards (tonight) where he has been asked to present the Oscar for the *best* score. "I can do that", he says rehearsing, "and the nominees are . . ."

The film business, he points out is a wonderful staple once you have the mechanical knack, but it is basically background music and the trick is a mathematical one. "You only realize how important the music is when you see a film without it", he says. "I've often thought if you have five nominated pictures it would be wonderful to run them all without the music and see which picture the score really helped. But nobody's going to run and see the James Bond *film* saying 'Oh my God, Hamlisch did the music', whereas, if, say Richard Rodgers writes a Broadway show, they'll go all right. *Chorus Line* was a crapshoot. If it had been a bomb (a failure on his side of the Atlantic) I would have put in the same amount of work, same time, made not a penny *and that would have been the* end of it. It took 13 months. But those shows are hard to come by. Well, 1977 is pretty well put away anyway, I'll *start looking for another show* maybe around Christmas."

That is Marvin Hamlisch, a man with extreme precision and an unusual grip on reality curiously allied to a mixture of vanity and paranoia. Last year, when the New York Yankees won the baseball pennant, he took his father to the game and they put his name up on the scoreboard in lights—in the audience Marvin Hamlisch.

"Then, in the seventh innings when people get up and take a little spin the loudspeaker went 'Ladies and Gentlemen, let's give a big Yankee welcome to Mr Cary Grant.' And he stood up and there was a big cheer.

"I remember Cary Grant wore a great suit. I once went into a shop in Beverly Hills and *saw* James Coburn put on a block leather jacket which was perfect. He paid 'em and walked out with it on. *Nothing* had to be done to it. So I walked over to the same jacket and I looked like a criminal who had just been released with five dollars in his hand already down to his last dime. I said 'There's something wrong here'. I have a line I say in my act, about Robert Redford: 'I'm not really jealous of Robert Redford, because I know that at this very moment he's probably at home looking in his mirror saying, if only I could play the piano like Marvin Hamlisch'."

Glenys Roberts

In the Red
Whitehall

Irving Wardle

Once again, William Douglas Home gallops forth in defence of an English elite imperilled by the bureaucratic dragon. In *Lloyd George Knew My Father* he championed the propertied classes; this time it is the overtaxed artist—but you would hardly know the difference, for as always we are at home in a country mansion with pools and things out in the grounds and the mistress of the house (Dinah Sheridan) stepping in with an armful of freshly cut flowers.

David Clifton, the master of the premises, is a non-writing playwright who has gambled his way into a calamitous overdraft: and, to be fair to Mr Home, he does not much resemble a damsel in distress. David is in no doubt that the right kind of people have every entitlement to live high on the hog without working for it; a view towards which the play takes a tongue-in-cheek attitude, abetted by Gerald Harper's suavely insolent performance. However, Mr Home does assume that his hero will excite enough sympathy to sustain the audience's interest in his financial survival: which means going along with him in an intrigue against his bank manager—an unbelievably trusting Scot of unshakable integrity and servile manner whom the desperate couple invite to dinner with the aim of rigging up the evidence for sexual blackmail.

The sight of the two grasping smoothies tricking this guileless man is not particularly funny to me; but what really sinks the comedy is the clumsiness of the intrigue. Conducted amid incessant bogus telephone calls, requiring David to dash off two scripts in an afternoon (which turn up professionally typed and bound in Allan Davis's production), and propelling the victim into rehearsing love scenes with the daughter as well as the wife, the gross improbabilities of the plot are not to be swallowed even on top of the victim's intake of Chateau Yquem. Nor, in the end, does the plot work out. As in *Lloyd George, Mr Home sets up a* comedy depending above all on the resolution of an opening question; and then finally ducks answering it. David acquires a son-in-law and a new bank manager, but as the curtain falls he is still up to his ears in debt.

Thanks to Norman Rossington, who undergoes the Scot's humiliations with no loss of comic poise, the production yields fewer squirms than one might expect; and the last few minutes of the play, where sexual rivalry dispels the financial clouds are genuinely funny.

A Faraway Country

My reference last Monday to the Richmond Orange Tree's programme on Czechoslovakia, *A Faraway Country*, should have credited the original research work to Vera Blackwell.

Peter Grimes
Covent Garden

Stanley Sadie

Covent Garden's present staging of Peter Grimes is surely one of the happiest products of our economic situation. Britten's master opera—last night's revival was dedicated to his memory—responds wonderfully well to a production based on simplicity and suggestion and tightly focused on the drama of Grimes's relationship to the Borough folk.

The unit set, by Timothy O'Brien and Tazeena Firth, proves happily adaptable, from Moot Hall to seashore, from pub interior to Grimes's hut, and evocative and truthful for each. *The cast* are costumed aptly in period, and with a sharp eye to social situation. The producer Elijah Moshinsky is greatly imaginative and resourceful in his handling of the attitudes and relationships that motivate the opera. I only wonder whether occasionally in *pointing up the action* he unwisely forsakes naturalism. In particular he often has the crowd unrealistically inactive: in the Act I dialogue for Keene and Hobson, for instance, and especially in the Boar, where the sudden stillness on Grimes's entry is undercut in anticipation by a stillness, driving other less crucial incident, of a kind unfamiliar (in my experience) in a crowded pub.

But dramatically, *Peter Grimes* depends at least as much on the player of the name-part as on the producer. This is an enigmatic role, for the reconciliation of the rough fisherman and the idealistic dreamer represents at best a challenge. The dreamer should not become, at least until his last scene, merely a madman: otherwise we, the audience, can only be in the same situation as the *narrow*, uncomprehending people of the Borough.

Richard Cassilly's interpretation possibly moves too far that way. The "Great Bear and Pleiades" monologue lacks its proper visionary thrill; he is too consistently surly, even with Ellen (Heather Harper, in full and deeply sympathetic voice); the toughness and defiance lack the grandeur of natural individualism. It is sturdily sung, but not poetically, perhaps partly because the softer music is unpersuasive.

The remaining newcomers to the cast are Patricia Payne, rich-voiced as Mrs Sedley, if permitting herself to smile implausibly often; Norman Bailey, a warm, kindly Balstrode; and Robert Lloyd, a stiff and solid Hobson.

Pleasure at Her Majesty's which is currently running at *Academy Three will be reviewed by David Robinson* in next Friday's film column.

Le cinesi/The Garden Wall
Sadlers Wells

William Mann

Sensibly and amicably the Royal Northern College of Music invited its opposite number in Denmark to share a series of performances in Manchester and London just now. At the weekend the Royal Danish Academy of Music gave two performances of a double bill consisting of a one-act Gluck comic opera and a new Danish composition commissioned for the visit.

Gluck's *Le cinesi* was one of his *early comic pieces*, composed for the Imperial Austrian palace at Schönbrunn to a libretto by Metastasio. Its attraction is the Chinese setting *where three noble girls are* visited by the brother of one of them, potentially a social scandal which they get over by performing solo operatic scenes and then *a concluding dance*, perfectly harmless for all the ogling that goes on.

It is a highly formalized diversion, pretty even when musically abbreviated, all too decorously staged, but exhibiting some pleasing local talents, especially that of the young tenor Kim ven Binzer, possibly a *Gedda in the making*. The Italian pronunciation left almost everything to be desired, it was so teutonically perverted. Fortunately the other half of the double bill had an English libretto by Poul Borum, simple, poetic, and beautifully innunciated. *The Garden Wall* by Ib Norholm was designed to exploit 20 singers, and did so at least in demonstrating healthy, well trained voices from high soprano through counter-tenor to deep bass. *Wobbling and potatoes in the* gullet were not to be heard: the Danish student-orchestra played the new work confidently, rarely too noisily, under Frans Rasmussen.

Northalm based *The Garden Wall* on a 1735 painting by Magnasco entitled "Patrician scene in a garden with a panoramic view". It is a large formal conversation piece. Poul Borum's English text displays the tableau, then moves the sitters one by one into animation to reveal their real emotions. The most engaging is a smartly posed lady who is chiefly irritated by the attacks *of insects, but most of the two* score persons make a vivid impact before the totally undramatic piece is done, if only because they all foresee aristo*cratic society destined to fall* to a popular revolution.

Although no music-drama, *The Garden Wall* sustained attention and displayed its cast to vocal advantage in music which gratified, stretched our ears a little if not seriously, and offered a continuity of likable, diversified sound, more *cogent in ensembles than in* solos. I much liked Helle Hinz as the insect-ridden lady and Mikel Melbye as her swain, but many other pleasant voices were to be heard. *The visit* was worthwhile.

Les vepres Siciliennes
Camden Town Hall

Paul Griffiths

Verdi's French grand opera of intrigue in medieval Palermo was the Chelsea Opera Group's contribution to this year's Camden Festival. In some ways it was an apt choice for a choral society, with its lusty involvement of French soldiers and Sicillian townspeople. But Verdi's pace, even in a lesser work, is that of the theatre: no concert performance can do him justice. One needs to see such scenes as the second of Act III, *where different groups* of characters emerge from the ballroom merry-making to mutter darkly of villainy and murder. Above all one needs a *certain visual extravagance* to keep one from taking the piece too seriously.

The best things in the opera are the scenes between Henri, the rebel Sicillian firebrand, and the man he discovers to be his father, the French governor, Guy de Montfort. Happily these came over strongly in Friday's performance, for William Elvin provided an excellent portrayal of the tyrant trapped by paternal sentimentality, and Adrian de Peyer girded his resources well as Henri, though a fuller voice would have been more fitting for this dashing tenor hero.

The other central character in this male-dominated opera is the psychotic patriot Procida, not a very likeable fellow, but here the soul of self-convinced rectitude in John Tomlinson's firm impersonation.

Margaret Haggart, as the nobly-born co-conspirator Helene, had the difficult task of adding both love interest and still more nationalistic fury. *She projected her fiery* voice with a will, but she was let down by her pronunciation and her lack of ease in the role's fierce decorations.

The choral singing was enthusiastic, the orchestral playing bright and bouncy, and John Matheson conducted as if he believed in every note: most impressive was his understanding of Verdi's chopped rhythms and of the dramatic strokes to be worked with a sudden change of colour.

Victoria des los Angeles
Festival Hall

Joan Chissell

Victoria de los Angeles came to the Festival Hall with Peter Katin as pianist, which helps to explain why songs by Chopin found their way into her programme.

She gallantly tackled them in Polish, betraying it was not her normal tongue by singing from a note-book instead of by heart. Yet curiously this extra concern for the text made the songs themselves sound more word-inspired instead of just attractive vocal mazurkas.

Her slowish tempo gave the radiant, youthful *A Wish* more tenderness. She also allowed herself time to characterize mother and daughter in *A Lithuanian Song*. The mature, declamatory *Melodia* taxed her in its strong, high notes of climax, yet left no doubt of the new, introspective songwriter into which Chopin was developing in 1847.

Prince of keyboard composers though he was, Chopin lets the pianist off lightly in these *songs; Debussy* and Granados are more demanding, and in the *Fêtes Galantes* (Series I) and *Chansons de Bilitis* there was no mistaking just how much Mr Katin was contributing in atmospheric evocation and intensity in climaxes too (notably in *La Chevelure*) while still keeping the voice to the fore. Mme de los Angeles was unfailing in response to mood and style and as tonally seductive as ever in all confidences in the middle register.

Up at the top the tone was less opulent, the line less flowing, the production more strained.

Extremities of pitch and mood again took their toll in *Tonadillas* by Granados, though certainly not in *The Sorrowful Maja* Nos 1 and 2, both beautifully liquid. In lighter mood *Las Currutacas Modestas* was Mme de los Angeles's triumph. Since she looked even lovelier than the lady of the song, here we could tru lyreiterate us "may God bless you".

Seasons of an actor

A Postillion Struck by Lightning

By Dirk Bogarde

(Chatto & Windus, £4.95)

In what *is, it seems reasonable to assume*, the first volume of his autobiography, Dirk Bogarde devotes a single chapter to his film career. A wry and bitter chapter it is, *too, concerning his one excursion* to Hollywood to play Liszt in *Song Without End*, an epic of such tedium that it seemed like a film without end.

There is no explanation for this chapter, which occurs rather abruptly as a kind of sour postscript to a book which otherwise ends with the author's call-up to the Army in 1940. Perhaps it serves as a stern reminder that even when a dream comes true (and "going to Hollywood" had been an occasional dream of Mr Bogarde's in more innocent days) Fate can be lurking round the corner with a loaded sock to turn it into a nightmare.

Also, of course, it serves as a reminder that this is less the autobiography of an actor than *the autobiography of a man* now in his mid-fifties who yearns nostalgically for an England that no longer exists.

The book is in two sections, "Summer" and "Winter". "Summer" is a jumble of recollections of a snug middle-class childhood in rural Sussex when *everything* was "very nice" and the only tragedy was the death of his tortoise. Written in the simple language of boyhood it represents the memoirs of a man who can remember when Twickenham was all fields and, secretly I think, wishes it still were.

"Winter" is altogether bleaker. Derek van den Bogaerde, was the son of an actress, who almost went to Hollywood, and the Art Editor of *The Times*. "Winter" deals mostly with early adolescence when pressure was put upon him to follow his father's career, a prospect which appalled him, and he was sent away to live in genteel poverty with relatives and attend a frightful technical school in Glasgow.

Young Bogarde loathed Glasgow—indeed he has never since returned there—and his affection for it was in no way increased by its being the scene of a bizarre encounter with a homosexual medical student, who wrapped the naive schoolboy like an Egyptian mummy before mildly assaulting him. What, if any, lasting effect this experience had, Mr Bogarde fails to disclose, and, bearing in mind the aggressive sexual candour of most modern autobiographies, such reticence, is perhaps to be applauded.

However, he escaped from Glasgow to become first an art student, then a tyro actor in revue, rep. and bit parts in the West End. But dominating this account of trials, tribulations and minor triumphs is the sense of rejection by his family which lends the second half of his book an acid touch contrasting sharply with the high sugar content of the first.

A Postillion Struck by Lightning is an interesting work for Mr Bogarde writes well and readably and the yearning he has for the England he knew as a child and the uneasiness he feels about the very different England he finally left in 1968 are quite revealing.

He is, too, intermittently revealing about his own assessment of his career as an actor. An "obsessional privacy", he thinks, stopped him reaching "the highest peak of my profession." By 1966, he admits, "I was splendidly on the skids." Well, *since his* self-imposed exile in France he has skidded back up again to a greater eminence than he ever achieved before. Perhaps he will tell us about that in a later volume. Meanwhile, the impression left by this first fragment of autobiography is *that in Mr Bogarde's recollec*tion nearly all the best things that happened to him happened when he was very young.

Barry Norman

The European Parliament is the best chance we have to preserve freedom

We should aim at a new system for taking decisions with our neighbours

The Government has said that it will outline in the forthcoming White Paper the alternative voting procedures for direct elections to the European Parliament; probably thereafter indicate its own preference for some form of proportional system; and eventually leave the choice to a free vote of both Houses of Parliament. We can hardly imagine that the House of Commons, if (on a free vote) it previously confirms the existing commitment to these elections, would make itself ridiculous by rejecting all possible means of conducting them. That, however, would clearly be the intention of those who object to direct elections as such. The following thoughts are therefore for the consideration of those who may be wavering on this crucial point.

Assuming that we stay in the EEC, the only real questions, irrespective of party, are now how best we can make it work properly, and whether a directly elected European Assembly would help to achieve this clearly desirable end.

Should we stay in? Well, since the Community was enlarged in 1973, all members have been the victims of a world recession. Apart from our own national failings, this is the main cause of our present discontents. Nor can we cure the consequent inflation and unemployment—ills afflicting all free societies—by abandoning the EEC and imposing import controls (as recommended by the "Cambridge economists"), unless we are prepared to accept a fully controlled economy on the lines of, shall we say, East Germany, involving the direction of labour and the virtual suppression of political opposition. Perhaps this is the price that Mr Eric Heffer and his economist friends would prefer to pay, but if they do they should say so.

If, then, we stay in the EEC and abide by its rules; if the clouds of world recession gradually lift; what are the advantages of direct elections? Mr Heffer says he is against them because he is not a "federalist". If the idea is that this old country should become the equivalent of Kansas or California, there are few federalists here. We should rather aim at a new system for taking decisions in common with our free neighbours yielding the immense benefits of unity—more especially in the foreign and defence fields—without in any way sacrificing our traditions, our way of life, and the ability to control our own internal affairs. To have this as an objective is, in the opinion of the "antis", to qualify as a "Eurofanatic". I suggest it is the only way to preserve our fundamental freedoms.

Why would a directly elected Parliament assist this process? Because in close association with the Commission, it would—given the political pull exercised at home by its members—gradually induce the ministers to take decisions—now too often held up for purely national reasons—that would redound to the benefit of all nine members of the Community. In other words, free debates in the presence and with the constant expert advice of the Commission, and often in the presence of ministers, will result in the hammering out of those great compromises—some, it may be, unpleasant, since all nine of us live in a dangerous world—at which the governments will eventually have to arrive.

Take the Common Agricultural Policy. This has already been changed to some extent as a result of vigorous triangular debate in the existing Parliament. It will be changed even more so as to bring divergent national points of view into some sort of harmony. In parliamentary discussions, too, the basis of a common monetary policy will emerge as time goes on.

Unless it breaks up and we all go in for economic (and totalitarian) nationalism, the whole Community, by employing this kind of method, is, as it were, condemned to succeed. What formal powers the new Parliament may have over and above the existing and (limited) control over the Community budget will be a matter for cool debate.

The objections raised by Mr Heffer are astonishingly parochial in the light of this great project. We must not, it seems, hold direct elections if they should clash with any other election that may be taking place in the UK—presumably an excuse for never holding them at all. Then there is the thought that people who voted "No" in the referendum—like himself and Mr Enoch Powell—will be opposed to direct elections and may be joined by those who, disillusioned as a result of the recession, do not realize that they are prescribed by treaty. Perhaps. Surely such people will be offset by those who voted "No" but who, once in, want the Community to succeed? Besides, the direct election of members of the European Parliament would not add to the limitations on our freedom of action beyond what we have accepted as a member of the Community: it would only make the Community more democratic.

Next we get the usual stumbling-blocks, such as the difficult choice of electoral procedure, including the alleged precedent for Westminster if proportional representation were selected, the possible disadvantages of a low poll, the hostile declaration of the Labour Party Blackpool conference in 1976 (binding, perhaps, on less than half the 37 per cent of the electorate who voted Labour in 1974), the absence of any precise electoral "mandate", and so on, none of which seems to be very convincing to our people, 47 per cent of whom would favour direct elections if a recent "Europoll" is any guide.

The only damaging new argument is a quotation from a speech of the Prime Minister "a number of years ago" in which he allegedly said that direct elections were out because our representatives "would be in a permanent minority". This must have been before the PM realized that any directly elected European Parliament would not function on the basis of national delegations, but of political groups.

The preferred "solution", namely the nomination of no fewer than 81 members of the Westminster Parliament to serve in Strasbourg also, is no doubt advanced, as Mr Heffer admits, to irritate those who believe that the Community should develop into a political reality. Obviously, if MPs find the "dual mandate" intolerable under the present system (as they do) they would find it even more intolerable under one involving greater responsibilities.

What Mr Heffer's proposal would amount to would be the nomination of up to 81 members of the House of Lords. We can imagine the effect on a newly elected Parliament of eager Europeans of the arrival of this contingent! But more probably the mere threat of such a breach of our commitments would result in a postponement—quite likely for ever of the whole project, none of our European friends being willing to proceed without our effective participation. This could prejudice the whole trend towards European unity and inevitably incline our democracies towards some accommodation with the East. It will be observed that there is considerably more in Mr Heffer's attitude than at first sight meets the eye.

Lord Gladwyn

Politics now is about prices, including the price of government

We must stop squeezing the nation into the ground

Raymond Fletcher

Waiting last Wednesday for a Government whip to cast my vote for Mr James Callaghan, my thoughts should have strayed to higher things. After all, I have been trying to draw attention for years to the increasingly ungovernable state of the nation; and there I was, if only by proxy, actually doing something to halt the downward slide to anarchy and tribal conflict.

Any government is better than none; Mr Callaghan's Government (as one malignant critic said of Wagner's music) is not so bad as it sounds; and those socialists who believe that accelerated social disintegration automatically blows open the road to socialism know little of history and not very much about anything else.

But, I must confess, my pre-vote thoughts never reached even the boundaries of profundity. I did a little mental arithmetic, calculated that the Government might survive without the 7th Cavalry-style arrival of Mr David Steel's troopers in its lobby, and asked myself why I had not placed a bet on the result immediately Mrs Thatcher sounded the bugle for the charge.

I also thought about the charming nursing sister who had met me on arrival and tried to drive up my pulse rate so that I could call her back to check it. It proved impossible. I can no longer excite myself about politics. Nor, I suspect, can Mr Callaghan, which is one of the reasons why he is where he is.

His coolness solved one problem last week and kept his Government in office to tackle the hundreds of other problems that remain. A similar cool approach to these, I suggest, is now necessary. Not all of them can be solved in the lifetime of this Parliament. Many, indeed, may never be solved at all.

But, however high the degree of excitability in the country, Westminster must keep both its temperature and its pulse-rate down. A style, well displayed by the Prime Minister in his two *Nationwide* broadcasts last week, now has to seep into and inform policies.

All politics now is about prices, including, as taxation, the price of government itself. As far as prices in shops are concerned, there is little or nothing that can be done by administrative action. Many price rises are imported. Others are a kind of thermometer reading of the sickness of the economy.

The fever will subside as the health of the economy improves. But this does not mean that prices will be brought down by order. All that can be done, and all that the Government should promise to do, is to get the prices-incomes relationship stable. German consumers pay high prices out of high incomes. They grumble almost as much as we do; but they are far from the edge of political hysteria.

Politics is also about differentials. Mr Roy Fraser, leader of the Leyland toolmakers, does not see why he should have spent over five years acquiring skills which, in present circumstances, earn him about £1.50 a week more than an unskilled man. Whether the action he and his colleagues took was justified is not, as Ministers say so frequently, a matter for me. I am further disqualified from comment by my own eccentric attitude towards financial incentives. My total indifference to them, in fact, is a source of anxiety to my bank manager, amazement to my business colleagues and something like wonder to everyone else.

But I can state the case for differentials as coolly as I am urging the phase three negotiators to look at it, by looking closely at a profession with which I have become closely associated this year.

Dr H—professional etiquette requires the omission of his name—lives in a very comfortable house and earns a good income. It is being squeezed, however, and though he votes Labour he does not see why he should be charged so much for doing so. He has earned a higher-than-average standard of living by spending years training when others were earning, by staying in this country when so many of his fellow-practitioners are applying for lucrative posts in either Europe or America, and by serving the community far more effectively than the best of MPs serves his constituency.

So much for the usual arguments. The deeper one is that Dr H's standard and way of living has impregnated his four children with a desire to study and acquire professional skills. They go to school, and will later go to university, strongly motivated to follow in father's footsteps, though not necessarily into medicine.

The fact that his wife is also a doctor reinforces the motivation. In other words, giving Dr H and Mr Roy Fraser a better standard of life ensures that we are going to get more Dr Hs and more Mr Frasers; and, God knows, we need them.

Yet there is more to it than that. The debate on education has now widened itself into a debate on society as a whole. What is the use, to put it icily rather than coolly, of trying to educate a child at school when that child's family is indifferent—even hostile—to the idea of education at all?

A 16-year-old child who is regarded merely as a missing wage-earner while he is at school is hardly likely to do very well or get very far.

As for taxation, there is nothing I can suggest which, as far as I can guess, the Chancellor does not intend to do. He realizes by now that income tax is no longer an effective means of redistributing wealth. Its present high levels are increasingly resented by the people we both represent. They are evaded by the kind of people who can put houses on the market at three and a half million pounds. I am as dedicated to squeezing the pips of exploiters as ever I was.

But we must stop squeezing the incomes of those whose efforts alone can bring about the industrial and social regeneration we need. For we can neither legislate nor orate ourselves into success. There are other problems, but there will be other columns.

The author is Labour MP for Ilkeston

Lord Chalfont

Going for the jackpot from the Soviet slot machine

Negotiating with the Russians, it was once said by a British Ambassador to Moscow, is like operating a slot machine. If, when you have inserted the appropriate coin, the machine fails to deliver the goods, it can sometimes be persuaded to do so by shaking it, or even kicking it; but it is no good talking to it. Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, is at present engaged in testing this somewhat disenchanted proposition, and for my part, I would not bet heavily on his chances of returning to Washington laden with goodies.

The Soviet leaders, it seems, have no intention of making concessions on nuclear weapons as long as the American President continues to "interfere" in Russian internal affairs—that is to say as long as he continues to express feelings of rage and despair when men and women are tormented and oppressed simply because they criticize the political system under which they live. It might have strengthened Mr Vance's resolve not to submit to this kind of brutal and cynical pressure if he had been able to spend a few days in Berlin on his way to Moscow.

Every time I go to Berlin, I expect my reaction to the Wall to be tinged with a sort of world-weary boredom. Its grey, relentless squalor is now a familiar part of the city's architecture; visitors to West Berlin are taken in coaches to inspect it, and to gaze curiously into the eastern sector from specially erected platforms.

One might expect this depressing phenomenon to induce feelings of cosmic tedium and a sense of resigned futility; but always, for me, at least, confrontation with the physical reality of the Wall provokes an access of intense anger and disbelief. What kind of mentality, shaped by what monstrous political philosophy, can have erected this thing? If it were a defensive barrier, designed to prevent aggression and invasion from outside, it might be possible to imagine that one day, in some as yet improbable atmosphere of relaxation and mutual trust, it will be dismantled and forgotten; but, of course, it is not defensive—it is designed, like the wall around a prison, to keep people in, to deprive them, quite simply, of their freedom.

I was reminded of all this with a new and irresistible impact when I visited the city again a few days ago while filming part of a television documentary programme for the BBC. It is, I think, not generally recognized that the Russians and the East Germans have not simply put up the wall and retired behind it, content merely to shoot anyone who tries to climb over it. Year after year they have been, if I may use the expression without doing too much mischief to the English language, "improving" it. It no longer consists of one rather flimsy wall, roughly constructed, as it was at the beginning, of poor quality breeze blocks.

There are now two solid concrete walls, in some places more than a hundred yards apart. The intervening space consists of ploughed land or raked sand, designed to show up footprints. It is covered by machine gun posts erected at intervals to enfilade every yard of ground, and brightly floodlit at night. To this basic equipment of the concentration camp, the ingenious guardians of the communist paradise have added a few technical refinements of their own—such as special "dog-runs" — narrow wire corridors, erected at intervals, in which guard dogs are allowed to prowl freely and to savage anyone who tries to cross their territory.

In some places concrete tubes are balanced on the top of the wall nearest to the western sector, so that if anyone proved brave and resourceful enough to survive the dogs, the mines and the machine guns, and actually succeeded in climbing the final barrier, as he grasped the top of the wall the concrete tube would simply roll off and drop him neatly back into the killing zone. They have even made thoughtful provisions for those who might think of avoiding all this by going underground; every sewer which crosses the boundary between east and west has been blocked with barbed wire and equipped with booby-traps and hidden microphones.

Yet, dreadful as it is, it might be possible to regard it with no more than loathing and contempt if we could be sure that the people on the other side of it were content to keep their degrading political system within its present confines. There is, however, another feature of the Berlin scene which makes it difficult to believe that this is so. If one examines a little more closely the East German frontier guards who patrol the wall, it becomes clear that they constitute something substantially more than a prison service. They are equipped with tanks, artillery, heavy machine guns and other modern mobile weapons—rather more, one would think, than they need to deal with the occasional dissident citizen making a terrified dash for the West.

It may be, of course, that they are also there for purposes of military defence. Someone in the Kremlin may really believe that one day the 10,000 allied soldiers in West Berlin are going to burst irresistibly out of their barracks and annihilate the hundred thousand Russian and East German troops which surround the city. Well, if that is really the case, there is something else which needs to be explained.

What is the reason for that strange concentration of East German troops at Glienicke, a point on the Berlin Wall opposite one of the principal allied airfields? If they are defensive in purpose, why do they need the latest bridging equipment? The only water obstacle is in front of them, in West Berlin.

Why do they need chemical warfare vehicles? And, perhaps most significant of all, why is the sector of the east-west border immediately in front of them *the only sector along which no concrete wall has been built*?

It grieves me, at a time when Mr Cyrus Vance is addressing encouraging words to his slot machine, to go on asking these importunate questions; but the fact is—and one hopes that Mr Carter is ready to face it—that it is dangerous to suppose that treaties on nuclear weapons can be negotiated in a vacuum. Nuclear missiles are only one appallingly destructive element in a vast apparatus of military confrontation. If, in pursuit of some dramatic agreement to reduce them, the credibility of the nuclear deterrent is undermined, the significance of such relatively obscure matters as the chemical warfare vehicles in East Berlin will be substantially increased. International security is constructed of a complicated set of interlocking components. If the vast and potentially lethal military establishments are ever to be safely dismantled, the process will have to be approached with care and precision—if one component is carelessly dislodged, the resulting disintegration will be catastrophic.

If there is to be an effective agreement on nuclear weapons, it must take into account such apparently extraneous matters as Russian policy in Africa and the Middle East, Soviet naval strength, the implications of civil defence programmes and the build-up of conventional forces in Europe; but above all, it must take account of the fundamental question of human rights, the persistent denial of individual freedom and dignity which is symbolized by every yard of that loathsome wall in Berlin.

If Mr Brezhnev insists that there will be no agreement on disarmament while Mr Carter communicates with Russian dissidents, the answer of the West should be clear and unmistakeable—there will certainly be no agreement on disarmament so long as the degradations of the police state and the political prison wall persist, and while the remotest possibility remains that they might be imposed by force upon the free world.

The documentary film The Writing on the Wall, an analysis of Soviet military power, is to be shown on BBC 1 on Monday, April 4.

How will BR meet the Brighton challenge?

The Government and British Rail would be unwise to take the Brighton Line Commuters' Association too lightly, despite the gimmickry that surrounded its inaugural coach trip to London last week.

The several hundred members who commute to London by train daily are suffering not only from generalized squeaking pips, but from a particular sense of grievance that challenges both BR's monopoly of the route, and one of the fundamentals of transport policy: indiscriminate cross-subsidization of some citizens at the expense of others.

It may or may not be a coincidence that the London to Brighton line, on which fares have risen seven times since 1973 from £213 to £489 for an annual season ticket, is one of the most profitable on British Rail. Only an hour's run with multiple attractions at each end, it carries heavy two-way traffic for much of each day and week, and probably attracts revenue nearly double its direct costs.

Rural lines in Wales, Scotland and the West Country, by contrast, cover barely a tenth of direct costs without any contribution to BR's huge central overheads. As inflation mounts, these little-used services take more of BR's £400m a year subsidy, forcing up fares on routes like Brighton, where customers are not only more numerous, but more captive.

It looks at first sight like robbing the rich to feed the poor, but is this really the case? Is the Welsh farmer more in need of help than the Brighton commuter? Most never use the railway and are probably indifferent to its survival. To the Brighton commuter—typically a fixed wage or salary earner—struggling to pay off a mortgage between incomes policy and inflation—the London train is an essential part of his life.

BR's London and South-East commuter services as a whole lose £80m a year on £150m revenue, and last year's Government transport paper suggested that the outer services at least should become self-supporting by 1981. This would mean further fare increases, greater than the rate of inflation, and no doubt greater still than the prospective rise in earnings of the typical Brighton commuter. Many simply cannot afford another four years like the last, the association says, and with unemployment in Brighton among the highest in the land they are trapped whichever way they turn.

The rival coach service is, therefore, says the association, primarily "to try to ensure that our members who can no longer afford to travel by rail, can keep their jobs". It is also, perhaps more significantly, "a lever to get BR to offer some monetary incentive to our members to stay on trains".

BR no doubt hopes the Traffic Commissioners will take the association to court and force it to apply for a licence for its service, then refuse to give it one on the grounds that it would take traffic from rail. But this familiar solution to such a situation—using the law to stifle competition in public transport—is being seen increasingly as not necessarily in the public interest, and there is pressure on the Government to modify the role of the Traffic Commissioners in its forthcoming new transport policy.

Apart from the half-price fare, travelling from Brighton to London by coach makes little sense. It takes twice as long, adds to London's congestion, takes traffic from the existing rail capacity, and forces up costs for remaining passengers.

The attraction of cheap fares is so great, however, that if the association *has* found a way round the licensing laws up to a dozen coaches may be operating by the autumn, carrying perhaps 500 of BR's 5,000 peak commuters.

BR could respond by ignoring the whole thing and hoping it will go away. Or it could offer its Brighton customers more competitive fares, either across the board or, for example, through off peak charter trains.

Whatever the fate of the Brighton challenge, there seem to be three possibilities:

- Keep the railway as it is, with ever higher subsidies to keep fares down. This the Government has rightly set its face against.
- Let fares rise, and price out more of London's commuting labour force, further dispersing the capital's commercial and industrial base.
- Keep fares down through further railway economies, including almost certainly the replacement of little-used services and those making inordinate losses by cheaper forms of transport.

One thing is abundantly clear. Everybody cannot have it all ways. Something has to give.

Michael Baily
Transport Correspondent

Politicians should consult a dictionary

An occasional series on new words and new meanings.

The *consultative* referendum on devolution has crowned *consultation* as the most fashionable canting catchword of present politics, and at the same time reduced its meaning to a thin puff of hazy connotation. Almost all British politicians claim to be in favour of consultation, on the same grounds that they claim to be on the side of liberty, democracy, participation, and the common man. What they mean by *consultation*, however, is by no means either clear or consistent. What they ought to mean is the action of consulting or taking counsel together, an action in which various opinions are listened to, and a common decision or opinion based upon the best advice available evolves.

The word came into English from French in the sixteenth century. Its ultimate root is the Latin *consultare*, the frequentative verb formed from the past participle stem of *consulere*, to take counsel. "Come gentlemen, let us *consult* upon tomorrow's business", *Richard III*. *Consultation* has acquired a number of specialized meanings. It can mean a conference in which the parties, for example lawyers or doctors, consult or deliberate. Modern legal usage confines this sense to meetings with more than one counsel present. *Consultation* can mean the action of consulting, for instance a book. And in an esoteric meaning from historical English law it means a writ by which a cause, having been removed by prohibition out of the ecclesiastical court to another, is returned thither.

Consultation's vogue political use has little connexion with any of these precise and unambiguous meanings. Sometimes it seems to be used to describe a process that is a substitute for thought or action, or an excuse for procrastination. Sometimes it means a process (regrettably almost always "ongoing") or situation whereby or wherin representatives of local or national government, unshakably convinced that they know best, but uneasily aware of the need for the appearance of full, democratic, public discussion, inform members of the public of decisions which have been taken, and which are irrevocable.

Sometimes, no doubt, politicians mean by the catchword of *consultation* that they actually are prepared to listen to views other than their own and their party line before coming to a decision. But in its fashionable use, the more a politician spouts about *consultation*, the more his audience should resign themselves to accepting a *fait accompli* that nothing that they say or do can change.

Philip Howard

The Times Diary

Dear Mr Simpligessverk . . .

P. H. Simpligessverk, my dreadfully inaccurate all-purpose expert, has started an advice column for the lovelorn. Here are his first three letters:

Dear P.H.,

Some of my friends think me foolish and you may do the same, but I have just moved in with a man very much older than myself. Jim and I have known each other for some time but it was only a week or two ago that he started making serious advances towards me, and put it to me that the good-natured bickering we were accustomed to indulge in may have been true love all the time. I am a young Scots girl with few friends in London and I succumbed easily—you may think too easily—to his blandishments. The trouble is that I do not think he has marriage in mind and he is most reluctant to give up his old friends, some of whom are, I am sure, an extremely bad influence on him. I have a dreadful fear that he may quickly grow tired of me and leave, and whom shall I turn to then?

Davida, Westminster.

Dear Davida,

Yes, I agree that you may have been unwise, but you must obviously now try to make the best of it. This kind of man is often a sweet-talker but highly unreliable. The best you can do is to make your home as attractive a place as possible, so he will not want to leave. Fall in with his odd little quirks, experiment with exciting new recipes and warm up his slippers and his ego when he gets home. Then he may not want to go and see his old friends but it would be fatal to nag him about it. To be prudent, though, you ought also to be making tentative alternative arrangement in case he does leave you in the lurch.

Dear P.H.,

After a whirlwind romance, I have just set up house with a sweet little Scots lass. I did it more from pity than anything else—she had few friends and no clear aim in life. But since she moved in, Davida has changed. From the carefree girl I used to know she has become watchful and suspicious, seeking to tie me down to long-term commitments and even talking of marriage. She resents my slipping out of an evening to go to the "Jolly Socialists", where I see my old friends Erica, Antonia and Norma, although she knows full well that I have never been intimate with any of them. And she insists on sitting down for long talks on life, philosophy and proportional representation in the European Parliament. Was I a fool to be so kind to her?

Jim, Kennington.

Dear Jim,

I think you may be deluding yourself over your motive for taking up with Davida. In men of your age I find their reasons are often less pure than they believe, and you may have been primarily driven by lust—for her lovely young body or simply for power. You are clearly not going to change your ways at your age and you may have been guilty of leading her on to expect more in the way of commitment than you are able to give. You ought to take her out once in a while. The fact that you do not mind being seen in public with her will greatly increase her confidence—though I suspect that you may prefer her in the role of helpless waif that attracted you to her in the first place.

Dear P.H.,

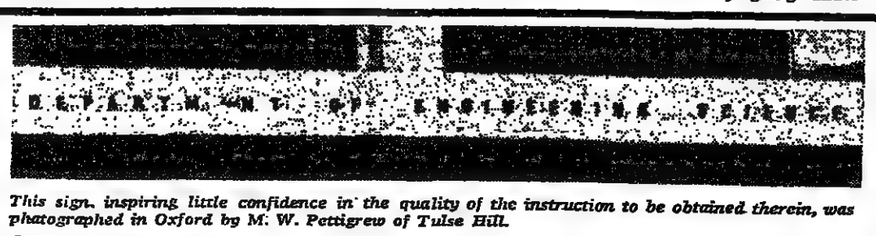
I am a middle-aged woman and I have been sharing a flat with an older man and a younger woman. I always thought we got on well together—we quarrelled a lot but as far as I was concerned it was all thoroughly good-natured. The other day, though, I picked a row with Jim about our domestic expenditure. I thought it was time to take a stand. Much to my surprise, Davida, the younger woman, took Jim's part and not mine and now they have become so close that she has moved into his room. I feel quite left out of things and you can imagine my mortification at the little sounds of endearment I hear through the thin walls. Should I try to break them up, or what? Please help me, P.H., because I feel so desolate.

Margaret, Chelsea.

Dear Margaret,

Yes, you do seem to be hoist with your own petard, as we counsellors say, but I think it would make matters worse now if you tried to come between them. Jim would instantly put it down to jealousy of the younger woman. If you cannot afford to move out into a flat of your own, you will just have to try to stay cheerful and sensible about it. Whistle while you're doing the washing-up, and try to build a life of your own. Cultivate your own friends. If you can grin and bear it for a few months things could turn out advantageously in the end. Jim and Davida might both move out, leaving the whole flat to you, though are you sure you would know what to do with it if got it?

(Questions on postcards please to P. H. Simpligessverk, *The Times*, PO Box 7, Grays Inn Road, London, WC1.



This sign, inspiring little confidence in the quality of the instruction to be obtained therein, was photographed in Oxford by M. W. Pettigrew of Tulse Hill.

Startime

On a commercial radio station on Friday, I heard Vanessa Redgrave talking about an all-star spring fair which was to be held the next day in aid of the Defend Equity Appeal Fund. She did not say exactly against whom or what Equity was to be defended, but seeing that Miss Redgrave is who she is, I supposed it to be against Bernard Levin and his like-minded legions. On Saturday I drove to squally Paddington to find out.

Most of the fair was indoors, in the hall, appropriately enough, of Sarah Siddons school. There were a few outdoor games, which the rain had virtually washed out—including a politically motivated one which invited people to hurl projectiles at a target to "Bring down the Lib-Lab coalition".

I did not spot Miss Redgrave, or many of the stars she promised on the radio, though this might have been because I arrived towards the end of the afternoon. Some signed photographs of Prunella Scales suggested that she had been there earlier, and I did notice Alison Fiske, who appears in that compulsive Sartres serial on BBC 2, which seems to have been running almost as long as the row in Equity.

I admit that I do not understand the Equity dispute—to have one regular contributor to this page who does so must be well above the national average. To try to inform myself better I picked up a pamphlet headed "Policies for 1977".

I can report, therefore, that the Redgrave faction's aims include total rejection of the Social Contract, with "a £60 minimum across-the-board increase, with monthly threshold agreements, backdated to January 1st." Moreover, "the Labour Government's public spending cuts go hand-in-hand with the urgent requirements of the State and the employers to remove all means of opposition to this wholesale destruction of living standards." Someone should set it to music.

Lip service

An enterprising bookshop in New York has found a new way of attracting customers. It took out a large advertisement in the *New York Times* which asked: "Ever been kissed in a bookstore before?" and promised that anyone who bought a paperback called *The Art of Kissing* would get a kiss thrown in.

The shop had a stand set up where a man and a woman stood ready to deliver. As each customer bought the book, he or she was presented with a slip of paper and, armed with that, went to the stand to get kissed.

More people came to watch than take part. The shop was crammed with voyeurs, and others were standing two and three deep on the pavement outside, peering through the window. Floodlights were set up, and photographers took photos, as the courageous few made their way to the stand.

The Daily Mail Diary spent the whole of last week in a vain attempt to defend itself against my charge that it misled its readers over the identity of the new United States ambassador to London. It closed the campaign in characteristic fashion with the stale "revelation" that I am soon to give up the Diary editorship—a story which had appeared in the alert Daily Express Diary a fortnight earlier.

PHS

THE TIMES
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QUESTIONS FOR THE BUDGET

For the first time since 1941, when budgets were first recognized to have an economic as well as a fiscal purpose, the shape of the central economic judgment that every Chancellor has to make in each budget is known in advance. Mr Healey's letter of intent to the International Monetary Fund proposed a limit of £8,700m on the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) for the coming financial year; and circumstantial reports of the Treasury's latest economic and financial forecasts say that he can afford to cut taxation by about £1,000m in 1977-78 without going outside that limit.

It is a fair assumption that he will use all of that scope. Indeed, in order to accommodate larger cuts in income tax he will probably have decided to include in his budget some matching increases in indirect taxes or reductions in planned spending. The questions to be asked are whether this is right and what its effects may be.

The decisive control on the future trend of money spending in the economy is the movement in the money supply. This is already broadly constrained by the terms of the Chancellor's letter of intent to the IMF. It is likely to have to be kept within a ceiling of a 10-15 per cent annual increase. This could be higher if the balance of payments turns out much better than the Treasury and IMF assumed at the time of the loan negotiations, although there is at the moment an opposite danger of the money supply contracting if the Bank of England adheres to its present control techniques.

The implied IMF limit is rather too lax. The aim should be to continue into the future the progressive, though hitherto rather unsteady, deceleration in monetary expansion which the Chancellor has accomplished over his first three years. A non-inflationary rate of about 3 per cent within two years should be the target. It is, however, obviously too much to hope that Mr Healey will set targets for the money supply markedly stricter than those implied in his letter to the IMF.

For any given rate of increase in the money supply and, therefore, in money spending, the main effect of a change in the budget deficit is on the composition of that spending. A bigger deficit means more government borrowing and a higher level of interest rates. It thus promotes more fiscally sensitive spending and less interest-sensitive spending.

In general a lower budget deficit is preferable because the kind of expenditure which is sensitive to interest rates is healthier for the economy in the future than the kind which flows from a fiscal stimulus. Investment needs higher priority and consumption lower priority than they have both had since the war in the period of widening budget deficits.

Against this general presumption has to be weighed the clear need to make a start towards reducing the swelling and insupportable burden of personal income tax. Had the Government acted on *The Times'* proposals for much larger cuts in expenditure last autumn, this dilemma would be less acute.

As things are, the long-run interest in softening the disincentive effects—at both ends of the income scale—of present marginal rates of tax is at war with the shorter-term interest in minimizing the budget deficit. The decisive question is probably how far a cut in income tax can be expected to have a favourable effect on pay bargaining after this August, whether or not some form of Phase Three pay restraint is promulgated.

This is relevant because, within the constraint of a given growth of money spending in the economy, the higher the price labour sets for its services the fewer people can be employed. The depredations of income tax are increasingly cited as reasons for pressing pay claims, although in the long-run the natural target of collective bargaining is to maximize the profit from what is, after all, a form of monopoly supply.

Despite the inevitable temporary effect on prices the Chancellor's best course, in line with what Liberal leaders have been urging, will be to go for the largest possible cut in income tax, matched so far as possible by restoring the Value Added Tax to a round 10 per cent and by increasing specific revenue duties, especially petrol, and specific social charges. Before the summer parliamentary recess he should aim to announce further economies in government outlays in 1977-78 in the light of this summer's public expenditure survey.

NORMAL BUSINESS AND ABNORMAL IDEOLOGY

Mr Vance's talk in Moscow will be the first test of whether normal business can be conducted with the Soviet Union in spite of mutual recriminations over human rights. The evidence so far is that it can be and must be. The Russians have of course made extremely loud and resentful noises about President Carter's stand on human rights.

Some of these noises are merely retaliatory but some express genuine worries. The Russians feel vulnerable. Their pride is touched and they worry about the stability of Eastern Europe and of some of their own nationalities. They find Mr Carter unsettling and they have not yet got him categorized—on human rights he sounds like a hawk, on arms control like a dove, and he has the unsettling habit of trailing his ideas in public before establishing them as policy. The latest statements out of Moscow suggest that they are genuinely ready for serious talks on arms control and the other subjects on the agenda so that unless Mr Carter throws too many wrong switches it does not look as if the human rights dispute will get too much in the way of negotiations which both sides need and want.

If the Russian leaders are still trying to get the measure of Mr Carter he is trying to do the same with them. It is not easy. Are they genuinely interested in military balance, for instance, or only trying to negotiate superiority? From one angle they can look like ruthless men going all-out for world domination while from another they look more like an uneasy coalition of aging, worried and very cautious managers, acutely aware that their own system has not even begun to rival the West in technology or living standards, that their empire is potentially unstable, that they themselves have no visible mandate, that their ideological authority is waning in Western Europe and elsewhere, and that their resources are badly overstretched.

Both pictures contain elements of reality. The Soviet drive for more weaponry and global influence derives from a changeable mixture of Russian tradition, Marxist ideology, military pressures, insecurity, fear, ambition and hopes of weakening the adversary. It is not essential to disentangle the mixture in order to see the implications for Western policy. The Russians will seek advantage wherever they can safely do so, exploit any weakness that opens up, take whatever points they can in negotiation, but they also have a genuine interest in reaching agreements which reduce risk and stress. They are particularly worried by the arms race because of their justified fear that in spite of their steady progress they will not be able to match the huge technological leaps of the West. Hence it should be possible to work seriously with them towards agreements on arms control.

Altogether less hopeful is the prospect of agreeing on ways of limiting rivalry in the third world. Dr Kissinger thought he had an agreement but it was found wanting in Angola mainly because he no longer had the sticks and carrots to enforce it. The Russians show no interest in agreed restraint. They exclude wars of liberation from their proposals on the non-use of force, they reject any attempts to line them up with the richer nations in tackling the problems of the poor.

What needs to be remembered is that this is not, as is often depicted, merely a normal and acceptable ambition appropriate to the status of any great power. In the Soviet case it does not spring from any genuine economic or security need. The Soviet Union is practically self-sufficient in raw materials and although it needs to take part in world trade if it is to develop, the ocean trade routes are not to it the matter of life and death that they are to other industrialized countries. Soviet motives are therefore related almost entirely to politics, strategic ambition, and the hope of being able to threaten the lifelines of the West. These are not interests which the West needs feel obliged to accommodate. Mr Carter must therefore be looking not only for agreement but for the sticks and carrots which eluded Dr Kissinger.

David Wood

Perchance to dream of Liberal glory

Remarkably little comparison has been made between the dubious bargain Mr Steel and the Liberals have struck with Mr Callaghan to keep Labour in power, at least until autumn, and the deal offered to them early in March 1974 by Mr Heath, which Mr Thorpe was instructed by his parliamentary colleagues to refuse. How could political discussion and analysis nowadays survive without Aneurin Bevan's taunt: "Why study the crystal ball when you can read the book?"

On February 28, 1974, 14 Liberals were elected. It was Mr Thorpe's heyday as leader. Liberals held the balance of power, and Harold Wilson and his senior colleagues on March 1 firmly declared their intention "not to enter into any understanding with any other party". On March 2 Mr Heath offered Mr Thorpe a formal coalition, with a Cabinet seat for Mr Thorpe (probably the Home Office), places in the ministry for other Liberals, and as bonus a Speaker's conference on electoral reform, including proportional representation.

All that the Liberals rejected. A looser working arrangement was discussed, broadly akin to that arrived at last week; and as we come to the 1977 Budget it is timely to reveal why Mr Heath terminated the discussion of a Con-Lib parliamentary pact.

"If", Mr Heath asked Mr Thorpe, "You are not in coalition with the government bearing your share of collective responsibility, what assurance can you give that Liberals will deliver the votes for an imminent Budget that they have not seen and cannot see?" Mr Thorpe said he could give no assurance. Mr Heath showed him the door and resigned as Prime Minister.

For the baker's dozen of Liberal MPs now in the House, Mr Heath's question is still relevant. Tomorrow the Chancellor of the Exchequer opens a Budget whose strategy and content Mr Steel must take on trust under his agreement with Mr Callaghan, approved by the Cabinet. At best, they may hope, through the consultative machinery still being devised, only to influence here and there the drafting of the Finance Bill if there are any proposals they cannot stomach. Beyond that, they merely have the comfort of knowing that economic and electoral logic oblige Mr Healey to bring in a big hearted and open handed Budget that will have at least a passing popularity in which Liberals, including by-election candidates, may delude themselves they can share. Nevertheless, it will be precisely the Budget that Mr Callaghan and Mr Healey always meant to bring in, even if Mrs Thatcher had managed to foreclose on Nos 10 and 11 Downing Street last Wednesday night.

Profoundly sceptical as I have been about the efficacy, duration and rationale and even the political morality of the Lab-Lib contract for mutual parliamentary survival—a contract which will inevitably end the moment Mr Callaghan feels free to choose his day for a general election—let it be recognized that since March 1, 1974, Liberal MPs have been perfectly consistent. Like Mr Thorpe before him, Mr Steel has steadily led his party towards an inter-party pact falling short of the historical living death of formal coalition. He did so before, as well as after, his election as leader last year.

In the Radio 4 programme *Analysis* on November 18, 1976, he foreshadowed events. He said: "I'm rather reluctant to go into detail on what we would call a shopping list, because in the present condition of the country I think what is required is some form of *minimal agreement* on what is required for the national good rather than what is required for the Labour Party, Liberal Party, or Tory Party. . . . I am demanding, if you like, a degree of policy self-sacrifice on the part of all parties, and I certainly don't intend that the Liberal Party should lean to one rather than the other."

Mr Steel did not stop there. He saw a Liberal contract with a weak or minority government, in return for "a fraction of the Liberal programme", as the toe-hold on power to make the Liberals once again a political force in Britain. He outlined, Mr Healey should note for tomorrow, radical tax changes as the preconditions for economic recovery; income tax cuts as incentives for the highly paid executive as well as the shop floor worker; taxes loaded on to consumption rather than earnings; raising of tax thresholds; and introduction of tax credits. In other words, the original 1970 and the post-1975 Conservative taxation policy.

So much is short term—indeed, so much is tomorrow. Nothing in last week's deal with the Government ensures Mr Healey will do it in whole or part unless it suits his book as he nervously glances below the gangway to the Labour left and then looks beyond Westminster to TUC leaders, whose contract with the Government at some points conflicts with the new Liberal contract. There are 76 Tribune group MPs, by no means all worried about losing their seats, against only 13 Liberals, most facing extinction in any early general election. Where will Mr Healey's self-interest lie?

Mr Steel, of course, has more than a tactical plan; he has a strategy that he did not confide to the House in Wednesday's "no confidence" debate. Yet, again, stop polishing the crystal ball and study the book. "The left of the Labour Party is the tail that wags the dog . . . What I would like to do is to establish some sort of realignment with the social democrats and I think that's a perfectly practical possibility in the present political climate. . . . If we could link up with the social democrats and form an effective political force in the present House of Commons, then I think you would find in time that we would attract people from both sides of the political spectrum."

Politicians who believe that prescription will believe anything. Mr Callaghan, who has won every party election he has stood for since 1951, the shrewdest interpreter of Labour Party opinion, of his time, is to allow 13 Liberals to stultify his life's work and allow Mr Steel to do what Hugh Gaitskell could not do by eliminating Clause Four and all it stands for? Mr Foot, no doubt a changed man, yet changed to the point where he deserts every principle and every old colleague?

It is another Liberal dream, and soon there will be a rude awakening.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Holding down food prices to the consumer

From Canon Peter Buckler

Sir, The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Silkin, has made it clear that in an endeavour to keep food prices to the consumer down prices paid to the producer must not be allowed to rise.

What he has not said is how he intends to control the prices paid to those responsible for bringing the food to the retail shops and the prices charged by the retail shops themselves. Presumably, like the farmers, these people, too, are faced with rising costs which they will need to recoup. These will be reflected in the price ultimately paid by the consumer.

A survey in early March of a consignment of cauliflowers from Cornwall showed the following breakdown. The producer received 11p per cauliflower, net: the wholesaler in Birmingham 16p; the price in shops in the Birmingham area was 25p. It is little use pegging the producers' price at 11p if a shortage in supply raises the price paid by the consumer to 30p, a rise which may be necessary to cover the cost of running the shop.

One other fact that seems to have escaped the minister—no one can dictate to the farmers what they shall grow and if commodities don't pay they won't produce them. Recent experience with potatoes, beef, coffee and now tea are evidence of what a shortage can do to the prices the consumer pays, and how vulnerable we are if we have to rely on imports.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BUCKLER,
Food & Farm Facts Unit,
National Agricultural Centre,
Stoneleigh,
Kenilworth,
Warwickshire.
March 25.

Consumer groups in the Community

From Dr Hermann Fragner

Sir, please allow me to comment on the article "Consumers from Nine back Britain on food prices" from your edition dated March 16 by David Cross. I wish to take up one point only, even though one could easily argue the view given by the British Government in the article, which appears somewhat one-sided.

Mr Cross mentions that the consumer organizations represent 260 million consumers in the EEC, a statement that is quite regularly quoted by them. (This is the total production of the EEC.) No deduction from this figure was made for approximately 8.7 million people who work in agriculture, forestry and fishery, as well as their families. One must assume that the farmers in Europe do not have the slightest interest in being represented by the consumer groups and one should also consider that those involved directly or indirectly with agriculture could also be included in this group.

There is the very large and important processing industry which deals with farm products and the machinery, fertilizer, feeding stuff and chemical industries which can only sell their products if the farmers are able to pay for them. There are no exact figures as to how many people are employed in these fields. However to give some idea of their importance, the annual value in 1975 of agricultural production came to approximately £42,300m and industry was selling the equivalent of approximately £18,500m per year to this part of the economy.

In addition to this—and this seems to be the real problem—who exactly are the consumer groups representing? In a number of the countries within the EEC the so-called consumer groups are not democratically organized and exist only on national and sometimes on regional level. Quite often they are financed by the respective governments.

In this situation there is practically no representative contact to individual consumers. Even in countries where real democratic organizations exist, there are relatively few full members in comparison to the total population and they can seldom even be expressed as a percentage. What evidence is there then as to the real extent of consumer representation?

One is almost led to believe that these groups and their professional consumer functionaries are mainly speaking for themselves.

Yours faithfully,
HERMANN FRAGNER,
48 Oudergemseweg,
B-1980 Tervuren,
Belgium.
March 20.

Tax relief on mortgage

From Mr A. R. Beard

Sir, Your report in *The Times* today (March 15) of the demand from members of the present Government that the Chancellor should restrict relief on mortgages in the budget, should be seen in the context of the present housing shortage and the recent warnings from "Shelter" as to what is happening in London and other conurbations.

Of course it is unfair that home owners get tax relief on their mortgages, whilst those in rented property get none. Surely the solution is not to penalize the owner occupier but to help the tenant by extending tax relief to personal domestic rent.

As someone deeply involved in the management of rented accommodation in London and elsewhere, I am convinced that this single change would drastically improve the supply of homes for renting and obviate the need for the Rent Act to apply to all but the bottom end of the market, where tax concessions are not relevant.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT BEARD,
Scobbiscombe,
Kingston,
Kingsbridge,
Devon.
March 15.

The natural government of Britain

From Professor Ivor Gowan

Sir, May I welcome your thoughtful article on the current political situation in today's paper (March 25). I think that you are right in two of your arguments. It is true, first, that few people want a general election at this moment; secondly, a lot of us, including many Conservatives, would extend a cool welcome to an administration formed by Mrs Thatcher and the present Conservative leadership.

But I think you are wrong in your view that the Labour Party should be regarded as the natural party of government. The Labour Party's record since Sir Harold Wilson became its leader is disastrous for the very reasons that you set out so cogently in your leading article. If Mr Callaghan is now applauded at home and abroad, it is because he has refused to be unduly respectful to the organs of the Labour Party.

In my view the natural government of this country is a government of the centre, or, in other words, a grouping which avoids the errors both of left-wing socialism and right-wing conservatism. The fact that Mr Edward Heath offered this coalition of the centre in the last election campaign has been deliberately underplayed by his successors in the party leadership, and this is one of the main reasons why the Conservative Party has suffered in general esteem.

It appears that the compact made by Mr Callaghan and Mr Steel is greeted with some general relief since it visibly diminishes the influence of left-wing politicians and affords a measure of stability in our affairs. How much greater then would be the support for a genuine combination of the centre embracing social democrats, liberals and moderate conservatives. Although the chances of achieving such a combination are not great at present, I think that a coalition of this kind would be the natural government of Britain in the future.

Yours truly,
IVOR GOWAN,
University College of Wales,
Aberystwyth.

From Mr Robert McCrindle, MP for Brentwood and Ongar (Conservative)

Sir, As the Tories face up to the failure of the no confidence motion, perhaps the time has come to assess the problems which will have to be solved before we can ensure victory whenever the election comes. It took no more than a few days of election fever to bring the trade unions out of their corners and make the public flesh creep by threats of non-cooperation with a Tory government. Perhaps the time is ripe for the Tories to stress their reasonableness and moderation on trade union matters, their determination to consult but not to be dictated to by the unions and to underline their appeal to the millions of trade unionists over the heads of their leaders if need be.

Perhaps the time has come also to stiffen the backbone of the public and to remind them that to even contemplate voting Labour or Liberal for fear of the consequences of doing otherwise is to contribute to the downfall of democracy and certainly to play the trade union game.

It is also essential that the Conservatives spell out their position on incomes policy and take a firm line as the stage three negotiations proceed. The middle ground is still important to the Tories and the fiction of a far right party devoted to a free-for-all is damaging. In so far as the Tory party has moved to the right, it has done so in response to the revulsion of the electorate to the far left policies of the present government. But the party will be depicted as red in tooth and claw by its opponents and an effort must be made to counteract this by underlining the essential moderation of our approach.

In social policy, too, efforts must be made to emphasize our dedication to the improvement and enlargement of the social services just as much as we criticize the abuse of existing social services. In education, too, the public assumption that Labour and the comprehensive schools are synonymous and that we are principally concerned with a narrow section of education must be exploded.

As one who passionately wants to see the return of a Tory government, I am nevertheless a realist. Time has been bought for us by the Lib/Lab alliance and the ground on which we should fight is obvious. I hope the next few months will make unmistakably clear to the public just where we stand and that, in the event, the defeat of the no confidence motion will be no more than a hiccup on the way to a Tory government.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT McCRINDLE,
House of Commons.

The 'Panorama' school

From Miss Angela Pope

Sir, My personal and professional integrity and competence have been called into question in the gravest way in your columns last week (letter, Mr and Mrs J. C. Morris, March 24; article Auriol Stevens, March 25). This is as serious to me as to any professional person accused of deliberate malpractice.

Firstly, I am accused of political bias and of an animus against comprehensive schools. In fact, I am a confirmed believer in the comprehensive principle.

Secondly, I am accused of selecting an unrepresentatively difficult school and presenting it as though it were the norm. In fact I was encouraged to film at Faraday by the Labour controlled London Borough of Ealing. My general purpose was to show how ordinary children are educated (which incidentally explains why it was a school, as Auriol Stevens indignantly remarks, "attended almost exclusively by working class children"). To this end, I observed school life at more than a dozen comprehensives under various Education Authorities. In Ealing I discussed the possibility of filming in three schools and the Education Authority steered me towards Faraday, on the grounds that they regarded it as a well-established comprehensive with an able Headmaster and excellent pastoral care. Like any conscientious reporter I was alive to the danger of being fobbed off with a show case; but in the light of my observations in other schools I was satisfied that this was not the case. I had seen both better and worse.

Thirdly, I am accused of misreporting Faraday itself. In particular it is said that the film dwelt disproportionately on lower ability children, on probationary teachers and on scenes of unusual, even contrived disorder. In fact, the coverage of the film was planned in close consultation with the Headmaster and the entire staff was kept fully informed. It was agreed that the daily life of two average ability classes and one remedial class should be shown. In the event, the filming of the remedial class stopped when half of its members were suspended for unruly behaviour. The Headmaster then asked me not to use the material we had filmed because he feared that it would create a bad impression. In the case of the two average ability classes, the agreed method was to follow them from teacher to teacher, as far as possible, on the grounds that this would give a representative cross-section of these children's school lives. Some of the teachers refused to allow filming in their classes, but in spite of this we were able to show the full range of teaching from probationers to experienced Heads of Departments, and the Headmaster himself.

We also showed at length the impressive pastoral care and counselling given by the more experienced teachers. There were sixteen scenes showing teachers at work—fourteen showed experienced teachers, two showed probationers. Far from exaggerating the amount of disorder and its effects, the transmitted film omitted a number of scenes of this type. Material was dropped either at the request of parents, or of children who feared that they might get into trouble at home, or at the request of the Headmaster. Every single request to omit material was met.

The suggestion that the film cameras affected the behaviour of the children is without substance, as I know from the four weeks I spent observing the school before being joined by the film crew. As to the suggestion that any sequence was contrived for the cameras, this is wholly false and would, if it had been true, have been the grossest imaginable breach of elementary reporting ethics.

Beyond all this, the film in its intended final form was shown on January 20 (two months before the public transmission) to the Chairman of the Ealing Education Committee, the Chief Education Officer, and the Headmaster of the school. When the Headmaster was asked if any members of the staff should attend this viewing, he declined. At the conclusion of the showing they requested that an existing scene be shortened and another added. This was done. At that time and thereafter, no criticisms were made of the film as a fair and accurate representation of life at Faraday. Indeed, the Headmaster commented and agreed to be quoted in a published BBC press release as saying that "It's a true film. It deals with reality, which is conspicuously lacking in everything that is written or said about education. We are never going to get a proper debate until we start with reality—these are the children we have to teach and these are the teachers who teach them. The film shows this for the first time so it can only do good."

I do not see what further precautions a professional producer should or could have taken. I am not surprised that the established educational interests did not like all that the film showed, although it also showed much that was admirable. But I wonder whether this carefully concerted indignation would not be better employed in trying to remedy the faults, rather than in trying to execute the bearer of bad news. Breaking the mirror will not change the thing it reflects.

Yours faithfully,
ANGELA POPE,
c/o Deborah Rogers Ltd,
29 Goodge Street, W1.

From Dr Alec Dickson

Sir, The situation depicted by the BBC's *Panorama* programme on Faraday School (*The Times*, March 23), in the London borough where I live, does not stem from the fact that this is a comprehensive. In the past few months I have observed similar scenes in early leavers' classes not only in cement built comprehensives in inner London but in centuries-old independent schools in the rural Midlands.

Adolescents who feel that further study is irrelevant to their future are today no longer containable as a collective unit—irrespective of the teacher's experience, the quality of the books used, or the nature of the subject. They have first to be liberated from the tyranny of their peer group—and then confronted personally with tasks which require them to be active givers rather than passive receivers.

Andrew Bell first became aware of this in Madras in the 1790s and in the same decade Joseph Lancaster, at the age of 19, started a school in Southwark based on the principle that older pupils could help those younger. This truth is beginning to be rediscovered today in America where pupils, however academically untalented, are being used to coach younger children, in programmes supervised by professional teachers. Whether it goes by the name of tutoring, cascade-teaching or the cross-age relationship, this process is proving successful in schools from coast to coast.

Where a similar approach has been introduced in Britain, in schools that could be named—in Edinburgh and Eltham, in Camden and Tadworth—those who have hitherto been apathetic, inadequate or allergic to authority as a group have become caring and productive when called upon individually to help those younger than themselves. Expected by staff to act as models, looked up to by younger children, they respond with commitment. And in teaching they themselves learn.

Yours faithfully,
ALEC DICKSON,
19 Blenheim Road, W4.
March 23.

Complaints by prisoners

From the Chairman of Prison and Borstal Governors

Sir, Peter Godfrey complains in his article (March 18) that there has been little official response to the recent spate of allegations about maltreatment of prisoners. That is because the allegations are still being investigated. No official version of events can be given until the truth has been established. However, the following facts, which are not secret, may help to remove false impressions which are likely to have been created by the article in the minds of your readers.

(1) Prisoners have channels of complaint about prison treatment, including disciplinary proceedings which they may wish to contest, *via* petition to the Secretary of State and *via* the prison Board of Visitors. If they are not satisfied with the results they can also write to their MPs, who can take up their complaints on their behalf.

(2) Prisoners are allowed to call witnesses when charges of offences against prison discipline are heard against them, if they have denied the charges.

(3) Members of prison Boards of Visitors, who are appointed by the Home Office, do their work in a voluntary and unpaid capacity. They have no vested interest in the system and are genuinely independent.

(4) Rule 43, which allows a prisoner to be removed from association with other prisoners, is invoked by Governors for the maintenance of good order and discipline comparatively rarely. It cannot be invoked for periods longer than 24 hours without the authority of a member of the Board of Visitors or the Secretary of State. More often, rule 43 is invoked by prisoners, at their own request for their own protection, because they have attracted the hostility of other prisoners. The fact that prisoners are segregated at their own request does not always prevent them from complaining, illogically, that they are being held in solitary confinement.

(5) Drugs, which are administered only under medical supervision, are in any case not administered compulsorily. Prisoners are quite free to refuse medication if they wish. They are also allowed to write to their outside GPs about their state of health and medical treatment.

(6) Prisoners cannot be punished for making allegations against prison staff, even when the allegations are not proved to be true on investigation, unless there is a separate, quite positive finding that the allegations are both false and malicious.

In view of all this, can your readers really believe that it is necessary for prisoners to make their complaints on smuggled lavatory paper in order to receive a fair hearing? They have, of course, received a faster and more sensational public hearing, and one which is quite unfair to prison staff who have no right of public reply.

B. D. WIGGINTON, Chairman,
Prison and Borstal Governors,
HM Prison, Brixton, SW2.

Portugal and Europe

From Mr Neville March Hunnings

Sir, Since his retirement from the Commission Mr Michael Shanks has become one of the most cogent, searching and readable commentators on European Community affairs. He does, however, in his article on the further expansion of the Communities (March 17) express a common misconception when he says that: "This triple application . . . will shift the centre of gravity of the EEC significantly to the south, making it more Mediterranean, more Latin and *less Atlantic* in its orientation" (my italics).

In fact it is too often forgotten that Portugal, although speaking a Latin language, is not in any sense a Mediterranean country, nor does it share those characteristics with the other Latin countries. To the contrary, it is the one European state which is wholly and fundamentally Atlantic in both psychology and geographic orientation, more so than Britain, Ireland or even Norway. And like Britain its main special relationship is transatlantic to its ancient colony, Brazil. In that respect, therefore, one would expect it to contribute a rather more subtle essence to Community development than is generally appreciated.

This is reinforced by another consideration. We have here, during the past couple of years in which we have been digesting Portuguese cases and legislation, been very forcibly and unexpectedly struck by the strong similarity in the Portuguese legal thought processes to those of English lawyers. This may have some connexion with the long history of close cooperation between the two countries; but whatever the reason, I learnt this very morning from an American colleague that he had encountered the same phenomenon in Brazil.

Admission of the southern applicants to the Community may in fact result less in a weakening of its north-south equilibrium than in a strengthening of its maritime element. And that raises all sorts of interesting implications.

NEVILLE MARCH HUNNINGS,
Editor, *European Law Digest*,
43 Fleet Street, EC4.

Selling British abroad

From Mr Peter Coldrick

Sir, A Danish friend asked me yesterday a question which I, and I am sure many other Britons living in Europe, find difficult to answer, namely why aren't British firms making a determined effort to sell more over here? Are no conclusions being drawn from the hordes of Europeans who flock to Britain because virtually everything is much, much cheaper than in Continental shops?

The present recession cannot be the answer because the fact that total demand is only rising slowly should not prevent British firms from seeking a bigger share of existing markets. But perhaps this is the key to the situation: are British firms now so internationalized that they do not want to compete with their overseas subsidiaries?

PETER COLDRICK,
250 Chaussée St Pierre,
1040 Brussels.

SOCIAL NEWS

The Duke of Kent will dine at Lincoln's Inn on Grand Day, April 28.

Birthdays today

The Right Rev Dr C. K. N. Bardsley, 70; Mr Dirk Bogarde, 56; Marjorie Countess of Brecknock, 77; Professor A. D. Gardner, 93; Mr Robert Harris, 77; Mr William E. Irving, 96; Mr James Laurie, 70; Mr Clifford Mollison, 80; Dame Flora Robson, 75; Lord Justice Stephenson, 67.

Today's engagements

The Duke of Kent opens the new chemistry galleries to mark the centenary of the Royal Institute of Chemistry, Science Museum, South Kensington.

Exhibition: "J.R.R. Tolkein", including books, drawings and manuscripts, the National Book League, 7 Albemarle Street, W1, 10-6.

Lecture: Gustave Moreau's "St George", by Cecil Gould, the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, 1.

Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition, Olympia, 10-9.

House of Brazil

A prizegiving was held on Saturday, March 26, 1977, at the Casa do Brasil, the cultural section of the Brazilian Embassy, for the award of the Machado de Assis Prize for the translation into English of his play, *Botany Lesson*, by the translators, Mr Reginald Phipps and Mr William Wareing. The cultural attache, Miss Heloisa Vilhena de Araujo, presided. The prize was awarded by the House of Brazil Foundation for the promotion of Anglo-Brazilian cultural exchanges.

St George's School in Switzerland

The council of St George's School in Switzerland invites all former members to a buffet lunch on May 12 at the Royal Commonwealth Society, Northumberland Avenue, preceded by a thanksgiving service in the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, Savoy Hill, at 11.45.

Please come, and write immediately to Mrs Hyem, Chaff Barn, Eartham, Chichester, as we must know numbers soon.

Service dinner

The Royal Anglian Regiment

Officers of No 2 (Royal Lincolnshire) Company 5th (Volunteer) Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment held a dinner at Sobraon Barracks, Lincoln, on Saturday. Major David K. Harris welcomed the guests and Captain Peter Moseling presided. The guests included Lieutenant-Colonel J. Todman, Major-General Sir Christopher Welby-Everard, Brigadier D. M. Stileman and Colonel S. H. Clark.

£50,000 winner

The weekly £50,000 Premium Savings Bond prize, announced on Saturday, was won by number 2 LZ 541806. The winner lives in the London borough of Enfield. The 25 £1,000 winners are:

7 BL 444601
6 BW [illegible]
DT [illegible]
3 DF 343437
1 FN 391077
6 FN [illegible]
KT [illegible]
6 KB [illegible]
1 LE 674620
1 LT [illegible]
7 LD 301320
7 PW 481170
9 PL [illegible]
7 OL 070176
6 OW 193748
9 RL 113606
4 ST 193648
[illegible] VB 022490
8 VL 075669
8 WW [illegible]
13 WL [illegible]
14 WZ [illegible]
10 XL [illegible]
5 YP 198591
10 ZB 094060

Marriages

Captain E. M. Crofton and Miss E. V. M. Dashwood

The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Deddington, Oxfordshire, between Captain Edward Morgan Crofton, Coldstream Guards, son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Morgan Crofton and of Lady Crofton, of Woodbridge, Brockenhurst, Hampshire, and Miss Emma Victoria Mildred Dashwood, daughter of the late Sir Henry Dashwood and of Lady Dashwood, of Ledwell Cottage, Sandford St Martin, Oxfordshire. The Rev G. Palmer officiated, assisted by Canon R. Chamberlain.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother, Sir Richard Dashwood, was attended by Edward Cadogan, Guy Holdsworth-Hunt, Rowena Curtis, Camilla Forestier-Walker, Fiona Hoare, Nicola Philipps, Miss Katherine Givardet and Miss Catherine Meyer. Captain Richard Greenly, Coldstream Guards, was best man.

A guard of honour was formed by warrant officers and non-commissioned officers of the Coldstream Guards.

Mr D. Jackson and Miss M. S. Hunter

The marriage took place at St George's Church, Buckland, Oxfordshire, on Saturday, March 26, between Mr David Jackson and Miss Serena Hunter. Father Fabian Cowper, OSB, officiated. The attendants were nephews and nieces of the bride and bridegroom. Mr Peter Mordaunt was best man.

A reception was held at the bride's home.

Mr B. P. Weeks and Miss J. C. L. Raybould

The marriage took place in London on March 25 between Mr Bryan Weeks, only son of Mr and Mrs Phillip Weeks, and Miss Jennifer Raybould, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Kenneth A. G. Raybould.

Major D. O. S. Whitley and Mrs J. H. Paul

The marriage took place on Saturday between Major David Whitley, 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, son of Air Marshal Sir John Whitley, of little Salterns, Bucklers Hard, Beaulieu, Hampshire, and the late Lady Whitley, and Mrs Jane Paul, daughter of Mr and Mrs G. D. Usher, of Lambs Rough, Danehill, Sussex. A service of blessing was held afterwards at the Church of All Saints, Danehill, Sussex, at which the Rev Mark Russell officiated.

Latest wills

Mr John Wightman, of Tathwell, Louth, proprietor of the former *Louth Standard* and a former county alderman, left £626,470 net.

Other estates include (net, before duty paid; duty not disclosed):

Fisher, Mr Edward Dixon, of Biggleswade	£348,275
Gray, Mr James Shortland, of Wing, Oakham, company director	£402,134
Rudd, Mrs Margaret, of Hepworth, West Yorkshire	£169,817
Sergeant, Mr Francis Harold, of Barmouth, Gwynedd	£269,997
Spencer, Mrs Katharine Williams, late of Bournemouth	£422,122
Taylor, Mr Richard Vigor Howell, of Clifton, Bristol	£230,122

A further grant of probate in respect of settled land valued at £519,300 has been issued in the estate of the seventh Earl Spencer, of Althorp, Northampton, who left unsettled estate already value at £185,635, making a total of £704,935.

The need for better research into family life

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

When the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Coggan, initiated a debate in the House of Lords last June to urge the Government to appoint a minister for the family, he was firmly told that the Government did not accept his point. The Whitehall machinery for coordinating government policy on matters concerning family welfare was in efficient working order, he was assured.

Now the issue has been reopened by the Order of Christian Unity, a church group pledged to defend traditional values of British life, which has written to the Prime Minister asking for a royal commission or a committee of inquiry to investigate the whole range of difficulties facing family life.

Such a commission or committee should examine the case for a minister to be specifically designated to cover the field, the order suggests.

Although the order cannot claim to be representative of church opinion in Britain, there is a feeling in most of the churches that there is a serious gap in the range of British national institutions, and that it is time a body was set up either by the Government or with government support with the family as its main concern.

Matters affecting family life occur constantly in most Whitehall departments. The Government's case is that normal arrangements for inter-departmental cooperation work well enough to ensure coherence of policy, so that a minister for the family would have nothing to do that was not already being done.

But the call for a minister, with or without a department, has been supported by the argument that such a step would express and symbolize the Government's concern, and also help to focus public attention on what some have called "a crisis of family life".

The high level of divorce in Britain since the new divorce law came into force in 1971, with 117,000 divorces in 1975, is one of a complex mixture of factors that lead many churchmen to be anxious about the future of family life.

The Church of England is in the midst of a study of divorce, in particular of the relationship between the easy availability of divorce and stability. The study started when concern was expressed that the new divorce Act had undermined the Christian basis of marriage law.

If the plea for a minister has not been given unqualified support by all church leaders, that is because there is seen to be force in the Government's argument that the field is so complex that to extract "the family" from all other aspects of social policy would be artificial and misleading.

From unemployment to tax reform, population growth to town planning, prison reform to health services, across the range of issues the family is present as an underlying factor, the basic social unit of national life, which is affected directly or indirectly by almost everything the Government does.

The view is heard that the appointment of a minister would be window-dressing, whereas the real need is for better research and better coordination.

Even where what is said to be the key issue of divorce is concerned, the amount of research is plainly inadequate for the seriousness of the issue. The causes of marriage breakdown have received so little study that it is not even possible for church experts to state without hesitation that a high divorce rate is a social disease.

It could be that bad marriages are the disease, and divorce part of the cure. Research into the consequences of divorce is even more neglected, as is the influence on family life of unemployment, overcrowding, television and a host of other matters.

There is no body or official person even mandated to ask the questions, let alone to spend money in search of answers.

Early tapestries fetch prices beyond expectations

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

Prices well beyond expectations were paid for fine early tapestries at Ader et Picard's sale of furnishings and works of art at the Palais Galliera in Paris on Friday. The star item was a "mille fleurs" tapestry of about 1510, with monkeys, birds, rabbits and fabulous beats distributed in a dense floral background, an armorial cartouche in the centre and a castellated landscape above.

It is part of a group of tapestries, most of which are in Angers Cathedral, although three American museums also have examples. The price was 420,000 francs (estimate 150,000-200,000 francs), or about £49,000.

The sale also included two Brussels tapestries woven after cartoons by Teniers: "Retour de la Pêche" made 130,000 francs (estimate 60,000 francs), or about £15,187, and "Marché aux Poissons" made 102,000 francs (estimate 30,000 francs), or about £12,000.

A grand carriage watch by Julien le Roi (1686-1759) was bid to 110,000 francs (estimate 60,000 francs), or about £12,850. It has a repoussé silver case decorated with a mythological scene and strikes hours and quarters as well as having an alarm mechanism. It has an elaborate movement, designed in part for decorative effect.

On Saturday the Palais Galliera, where three times a year the French auctioneers hold their most glamorous sales, was taken over by Loudmer et Poulain with one general sale of Old Master paintings, works of art and furniture, and a second sale devoted to modern pictures. The first attracted the most interest, with fine Louis XIV furniture making particularly high prices.

Two glass-fronted bookcases veneered in ebony and boulle brought 200,000 francs (estimate 130,000 francs), or about £23,364. The fact that they had originally been part of the royal furnishings of Versailles was glossed over in the sale catalogue for fear that the national museums might take too much interest in the sale; they have the right in France to preempt purchases at auction at the final bid price, which tends to discourage other purchasers.

A fine Louis XIV cabinet elaborately veneered in ebony and boulle in the manner of J. Berain fetched 205,000 francs (estimate 180,000 francs), or about £24,000. Royal furniture of the nineteenth century proved almost as attractive of that of earlier time. An eccentric mahogany bonheur-du-jour lavishly decorated with panels of Japanese lacquer and textured ormolu and made about 1880 for the Empress Alexandra of Russia, made 95,000 francs (estimate 70,000 francs), or about £11,000.

Among the paintings was a portrait by Philippe de Champaigne of a friend in a Turkish turban and robes; it had remained in the artist's family since the seventeenth century and fetched 78,000 francs (estimate 100,000 francs), or £9,112.

Bidding in the modern picture sale was highly selective: only paintings of quality brought strong competition. The top price was 160,000 francs (estimate 90,000 francs), or £18,692, for a painting by Maurice Esteve of 1930 entitled "Les Fiances du Nouvel an".

A sale of period furniture and decorations held by Sotheby Parke Bernet in New York on Friday and Saturday totalled £175,154, with 91 lots out of 716 unsold. English furniture brought some surprises, with a George II oak dresser at $3,200 (estimate $800-$1,000), or about £1,800, and a James I oak refectory table at $2,600 (estimate $4,000-$,6000), or about £1,500. A curiosity of the sale was a tufted cotton flannel pin-cushion of 1776 at $225 (estimate $100-$150), or £130: the pins are stuck into it so as to form a pattern of birds, flowers, fleur-de-lys and crowns, together with the inscription, "God Bless the Babe" and the date 1776.

Sir William Walton, OM, the composer, who will be 75 tomorrow.

National student drama festival opens this week

By a Staff Reporter

The twenty-second national student drama festival opens at St Andrews on Friday and will run until April 9.

It is sponsored by the Scottish Tourist Board and *The Sunday Times*, with financial assistance from the Scottish Arts Council. The main events of the festival are 22 student productions chosen from 70 entries: 12 are new, seven written or compiled by students.

In addition there are two versions of *King Lear*: a truncated "Kabuki" version from Leeds University, and "a ritualistic version with considerable emphasis on visual patterning" from Cambridge University. Five of Cambridge's nine entries were accepted; and a sixth was invited but unable to accept.

A National Student Theatre Company will be inaugurated at the festival, and auditions for it will take place at St Andrews during the nine days.

Putting public before cattle on 1066 battlefield

The battlefield on which King Harold died in 1066 when his army was defeated by the invading Normans is to become a country park, East Sussex County Council said yesterday.

The Department of the Environment last year paid nearly £700,000 for the site, with Battle Abbey and other historic buildings. But visitors have complained that they cannot visit the battlefield because it is used to graze cattle.

The council said that admission to the park, which will include picnic areas, will be free.

Geographical award

Professor Michael Wise, Professor of Geography at the London School of Economics and president of the International Geographical Union, has been awarded the Royal Geographical Society's Founder's Medal.

Ideas of organic farming being taken more seriously

Agriculture

Hugh Clayton

Organic farmers have many aims, which they state clearly. They are to farm biologically rather than chemically, to work in close harmony with nature and to show by example that their methods are as productive as anyone else's. They have another aim, which is stated less often but pursued just as ardently. They want very much to be taken seriously.

Organic farmers are caricatured as wild-eyed, affluent enthusiasts, in full flight from urban life, who sing to the Moon, pray to the Sun and remain fanatically impervious to views opposed to their own.

The former office worker who buys a smallholding with enough money to finance the losses incurred from his mistakes is becoming a familiar figure in some rural counties. But not all organic farmers are like that. Some organic smallholders are poor and successful and some farmers with larger acreages run holdings that look exactly like anyone else's to an untrained eye.

Organic farming is no longer greeted with automatic derision. Even that is evidence of progress. In view of the prejudice it has endured. Evidence of a new attitude came last Thursday when Dr T. V. L. Ulbricht, a scientific adviser at the Agricultural Research Council, gave the first public lecture of The International Institute of Biological Husbandry.

After emphasizing that he was giving personal views, he said of the organic movement: "I wish it well. I would only ask those working in it not to be as arrogant as the scientists have often been."

The uses of organic farming are being examined by the agricultural establishment; even, it is whispered, from the lofty heights of the Centre for Agricultural Strategy at Reading University. Since the movement has little money, it has had little opportunity to demonstrate its usefulness through research.

Dr Ulbricht said that relevant experiments were far too sparse for anything more than the most tentative conclusions to be drawn from them. He observed that there were other more general trends that cast doubt on the validity of our civilization's present way of life.

In 1870, he said, the life expectancy of a man aged 45 was 22 years. In 1948, after 78 years of advance in medicine, social policy, nutritional science and consumer protection, it had risen to 28 years. In 1976 the figure was 27 years.

"It is striking that since the war there has been a slight decline", Dr Ulbricht said. Many champions of organic husbandry would say that he was myopically cautious, and that civilization is clearly approaching its doom unless it makes many drastic and widespread changes.

The organic movement is often confused by those who mock it with vegetarianism, obscure religions, exaggerated concern for animals and unbridled nostalgia. It is not necessarily connected with any of those things; for example, animals reared on organic farms are sent to the same slaughterhouses as the rest.

One view that all parts of the movement hold, however, is that agriculture is being led by the nose by the large companies which supply its inputs. Capital spending on chemical plants and the cost of vast advertising budgets, they reason, require an assurance of a reliable return.

The believe that the big companies have such power to finance research, and lobby in Westminster and Whitehall, that they can in effect choose the direction in which agriculture advances. In the past 30 years it has moved towards increasing yields through increasing use of industrial inputs tailored to produce a given result, and through replacing workers with machines.

Many "conventional" farmers who neither favour nor practise organic husbandry believe that agriculture is dominated excessively by powerful companies that sell to it, like Unilever and ICI. Some of them also suspect with the organic movement that companies based in this and other developed countries are trying to impose a western, technological agriculture on the less developed.

That point was raised by Dr Ulbricht. "When scientists consider the problems of the underdeveloped world, what they want to do is to make that agriculture more like ours", he said. "Are there any other ways of producing more food in those countries? I think maybe there are.

"In the semi-arid regions there are plants and there are animals which have much lower water requirements than the crops we are used to. I think a certain humility in the face of these problems is not out of place."

The debate about organic husbandry is confused by the impatience of some of its devotees, the large number of small organizations that pursue it, the paucity of knowledge about it and the willingness of some of its detractors and supporters to hurl unsupported accusations at each other. Aspects of it will be examined occasionally in this column for the rest of the year.

Parliamentary diary

House of Commons

Monday, March 21: Redundancy Rebates Bill read second time by 240 votes to 123. Nuclear Industry (Finance) Bill passed report stage and read third time by 140 votes to 11. Debate on EEC document on coking coal: motion agreed to. Representation of the People Bill passed committee and remaining stages. Adjournment debate about health services in the North West. House adjourned 10.43 pm.

Tuesday, March 22: Motion for first reading of Auditing Reform Bill rejected by 134 votes to 139. Debate on defence: adjourned. Motion on financial assistance to Meriden Motor Cycles Ltd: motion agreed to. Adjournment debate about whooping cough vaccination. House adjourned midnight.

Wednesday, March 23: Shops (Amendment) Bill and Penal Reform Bill read first time. Debate on motion of no confidence in the Government: motion rejected by 322 votes to 298. Adjournment debate about St Wulstan's Hospital, Malvern. House adjourned 10.42 pm.

Thursday, March 24: Lords amendments to Social Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill considered. Merseyside Passenger Transport Bill read second time. Motion on Family Income Supplements (Computation) Regulations agreed to. Motion to annul Social Security (Child Benefit Consequential) Amendment Regulations rejected by 47 votes to nil.

Friday, March 25: Petition presented on tax concessions on luncheon vouchers. Private member's motion on direct elections to European Parliament: debate adjourned. Torts (Interference with Goods) Bill read second time. Adjournment debate about football hooliganism. House adjourned 4.30 pm.

House of Lords

Monday, March 21: Motions on Redundant Mineworkers and Concessionary Coal (Payments Schemes) (Amendment) Order, Transport Boards (Adjustment of Payments) Order, Family Income Supplements (Computation) Regulations, and Weights and Measures Act (Honey) Order agreed to. Debates on motions to take note of EEC committee reports on farm prices and on Green money: motions agreed to. Debatable question on Rhodesia. House adjourned 9.58 pm.

Tuesday, March 22: Agricultural Holdings (Notices to Quit) Bill read third time. Social Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill passed report stage. Job Release Bill read second time. Patents Bill, committee stage: adjourned. Motions on Northern Ireland Orders on gas and on appropriation agreed to. Debatable question on Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation. House adjourned 8.36 pm.

Wednesday, March 23: Representation of the People Bill read second time. Social Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill read third time. Debate on a National Recovery Programme. House adjourned 7.47 pm.

Thursday, March 24: Criminal Law Bill passed report stage. International Finance, Trade and Aid Bill, and Nuclear Industry (Finance) Bill read second time. Debatable question about Pay Research Unit. House adjourned 8.47 pm.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons

Today at 2.30: Conclusion of debate on defence. General Rate (Public Utilities) Bill, and Marriage (Scotland) Bill, remaining stages. Debate on EEC document on fishery resources.

Tomorrow at 2.30: The Budget. St Paul's Playing Field (Trust) Bill, second reading.

Wednesday and Thursday at 2.30: Debate on the Budget. At end on Wednesday, debate on Chairman of Ways and Means ruling of February 10.

Friday at 11.00: Private members' motions on the European Communities Act; commuter transport policy; and on problems in commuter areas.

Select Committees

Today: Expenditure: Education Arts & Home Office Subcommittee. Subject: The attainments of the school leaver. Witnesses: Society of Education Officers; Technician Education Council (4.15 pm, room 15).

Wednesday: Expenditure: Trade & Industry Subcommittee. Subject: Public Expenditure White Paper; Export Credit Finance. Witnesses: Officials from the Department of Trade; Treasury; Bank of England; ECGD (10.15am, 16). European legislation: Subcommittee I. Subject: Ethyl Alcohol. Witnesses: Chemical Industries Association Ltd; The Vodka Trade Association; The Scotch Whisky Association (10.30am, 8). Overseas Development: Subject: Trade Policy and Aid Policy. Witnesses: Import Opportunities Office (4.15pm, 6). Expenditure: Social Services & Employment Subcommittee. Subject: The Job Creation Programme. Witnesses: Department of Employment; The Manpower Services Commission (4.30pm, 7).

House of Lords

Tomorrow at 2.30: International Finance, Trade and Aid Bill, Job Release Bill, Passenger Vehicles (Experimental Areas) Bill, and Nuclear Industry (Finance) Bill, third reading. Representation of the People Bill, and Returning Officers (Scotland) Bill, committee and remaining stages. New Towns (Scotland) Bill, consideration of Commons amendments. Patents Bill, committee stage. Motions on EEC (Definition of Treaties) Orders. Patents Bill, committee stage.

Wednesday at 2.30: Debate on inner cities.

Thursday at 2.30: Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Bill, second reading. Debate on report on EEC Regional Development Fund. Debatable question on problems of dispersal of Civil Service jobs from London. Adjournment for the Easter recess until Tuesday, April 19.

Select Committees

Wednesday: EEC Subcommittee D on agriculture and consumer affairs. Subject: Draft regulation on ethyl alcohol. Witnesses: Major-General W. I. Cooper and Mr R. Perry, Gin Rectifiers and Distillers Association; Mr R. J. Grainer, Mr A. G. Reed and Mr Gardner, Chemical Industries Association (10.30 am).

Thursday: EEC Subcommittee C on education, employment and social affairs. Subject: Preparation of young people for working life. Witnesses: TUC and CBI (11 am). EEC Subcommittee B on trade and treaties. Subject: Subcommittee's visit to Brussels. Witness: Lord Reay (11 am).

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy

REAR-ADMIRAL: D. A. Loram MVO, to be promoted Vice-Admiral, March 7, and to be Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic in Oct.

CAPTAINS: A. R. Wavish, DOAE [illegible] Byfleet as Snr Service Rep [illegible], July 15; J. G. Bolton, MOD(PE) with DGW(N) DWTA(N) [illegible] Weapons Trials, Sept 25.

SURGEON CAPTAIN: J. W. Richardson, RNH Plymouth in comdn as Cons in Surg and for duties at INM as Prof of Naval Surg, March 10.

COMMANDERS: J. M. Findlay, DNVAD as Engr Offr, June 22; C. H. [illegible]field, MOD with DG Ships (DNE), June 20; F. J. Robertson, MOD with DG Ships, June 28; T. Leland, FIFE as MEO, Sept 2; N. C. Fleming, [illegible] Loan Service with RAN as Dy Director of Naval Trng (Tech/SY) in [illegible] HARMAN Canberra, July 11; [illegible] L. Keenan, CENTURION as Drafting Cdr (E) (ME), July 29; R. N. Langman, GLASGOW (bldg), Aug 25 [illegible] as MEO on commg; W. H. Foster, [illegible] as MEO, Sept 16; W. Alexander, [illegible] with CofN as Secy and Naval [illegible], July 29; A. Ryle, MOD(PE) with [illegible] DSWP Portsdown, June 13; [illegible] GALATEA as SWEO and [illegible]; J. E. Peat, MOD(PE) [illegible] DUWP, July 12; [illegible] T. Thomis, MOD(PE) with DGW(N) DUWP Portland, Aug 23; R. J. Kirick, GLASGOW (bldg) and as WEO on commg, Aug 30; A. C. Elofield, HARDING NATEC as Dr OIC, July 22; D. Dawson-Taylor, HERMES, July 23; J. L. Sessions, DARTMOUTH, as Sr Offr, Sept 15; M. F. Naldor, MOD with DNOT, June 4; J. N. Ainger, MOD with DNW, Sept 6; [illegible] Clapham, MOD with DGN[illegible] f.r DNMP, June 21; M. Cudmore, ARK ROYAL, July 26; G. G. Muskums, FOCAS as Staff WEO, May 27; J. M. N. Walton [illegible], Mar 21.

CHAPLAIN: Rev W. T. Bahce, NELSON for HM Nav Base Portsmouth, March 28.

WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE

CHIEF OFFICER: D. [illegible] Swallow, MOD with Nav Sec and DUNMT addl, Aug 16.

The Army

HONORARY NURSING SISTER TO THE QUEEN: Brig J. O. E. Moriarty, QARANC, appld Honorary Nursing Sister to The Queen, Jan 28.

COLONEL COMMANDANT: Maj-Gen V. Metcalfe: Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Feb 28.

BRIGADIERS: P. I. Attack to be Dir Army Management Services Gp, March 30; Col M. W. Clark to be Comdt SEME, March 30.

COLONELS: J. I. G. Capadose to be Col GS, Ord Board, April 1; Lt-Col D. H. Hodge, RA, to be AAG, AG6, MOD, April 1.

LIEUT-COLONELS: A. G. Ager, RADC to be Sen Spec Dental Offr, Q Elizabeth Mil Hosp, Woolwich, April 1; P. S. Brig, RAPC, to be OC Professional Trg Cor, RAPC Trg Centre, April 1; A. M. J. Connor-Walker, RAPC, to be Gp Offr, RPO Nottingham, April 1; D. P. Earlam, RA, to be AA & QMG, HQ SAF Oman, April 1; J. V. Grieve, QARANC, appld Matron, Mil Hosp Colchester, March 7; Maj R. Holworthy, LI, appld CO LI Depot, March 17; J. S. Tandau, RA, to be GSO1, SP II, MOD, April 1; Maj R. McCrum, R Irish, appld CO 3 R Irish, March 2; J. D. Murr[illegible], R Signals, to be CO 13 Sig Regt, April 1; M. J. Norvell, RADC, to be Cons Dental Offr, [illegible] Mil Hospital, [illegible], April 1; N. H. Peters, RAMC, appld Cons in Surg, BMH Hanover, March 8; M. F. L. Shepard, RA, appld CO 22 LI AD Regt, RA, March 3; M. J. T. C. P. Sherry, RAMC, appld Snr Ed Offr, Army App Coll, Harrogate, March 21; Maj F. G. Stenson, RE, appld GSO1, SCDS (A) 3, MOD, April 5; J. P. M. Wilson, RE, appld DA Bucharest, March 2; R. W. Woollead, RAMC, appld DADAH, HQ South West Dist, March 21.

Royal Air Force

AIR COMMODORE: T. L. Kennedy to be Commander Northern Maritime Air Region and Air Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland, April 3.

GROUP CAPTAINS: D. J. Edwards to HQ RAFG as Gp Capt Ops, April 1; A. D. J. Henley as Commander RAF Hong Kong, March 31; V. McNabney, to SHAPE as Staff Officer, Nuclear Plans Section, April 1.

WING COMMANDERS: R. J. [illegible] to RAF Innsworth as ADPMS (RAF), March 21; K. R. Fenner to Wildenrath as OC Eng Wg, March 28; J. H. Hutton to HQ 18 Gp as G Mech Eng, March 28; R. V. Patrick to MOD as MT2 (RAF), March 28; R. H. Wood to MOD (AFD) as Air Plans 1, March 28.

SQUADRON LEADERS (with acting rank of Wing Commander): M. G. Parker to HQ STC as DS/LRMP [illegible], April 1; F. J. Thomas to RAFG as ED 1, March 31; C. C. Plowman to HQ RAFG [illegible], March [illegible]; [illegible] Taylor to MOD (PE) as QAD (W) Air [illegible], March 21.

MEDICAL

AIR COMMODORE (with acting rank of Air Vice-Marshal): I. M. Jordan to be PMO Support Command, March 30.

GROUP CAPTAINS: I. M. Ogilvie to PM RAF Hospital Halton as OC, March 24; C. A. B. McLaren to PM RAF Hospital Wroughton as Consultant in Anaesthetics, April 1; I. M. O'Connor to CME as Consultant Adviser in Ophthalmology, April 6.

WING COMMANDERS: J. T. G. Roberson to RAF Hospital Wegberg as Consultant in Anaesthetics, March 8; J. K. Clobatt to PM RAF Hospital Halton, as Consultant in Ophthalmology, April 4.

CIVIL CONSULTANT: Professor William Linford Rees to be Civil Consultant in Psychiatry to the RAF, April 1.

CHAPLAIN

WING COMMANDER: A. F. Vickers to RAF Benson as Station Chaplain, March [illegible].

Science report

Zoology: baboon offspring

A study of baboons in Ethiopia has shown that females that dominate others in their social group have the advantage of producing more offspring. Such a relationship between the dominance hierarchy and reproductive success is well known among males of various species, but so far there has been little firm evidence for females.

The discrepancy has been due in part to the greater ease of studying a species that is organized into groups consisting of several males and one female. Within such a group it is obvious which males are engaged in reproduction at a particular time, and the reproductive success of different individuals can be determined quite readily. But the picture is more complicated when groups comprise one male and several females, for most of the females will have offspring at some stage of development.

Thus it is necessary to do a more painstaking study of the sort described in this week's *Nature* by Dr R. I. M. Dunbar and Dr E. P. Dunbar, of Bristol University. They made their observations in 1974-75 on 11 groups of gelada baboons (*Theropithecus gelada*). The degree of harassment among the females revealed a dominance hierarchy in which higher ranking individuals exerted themselves against their subordinates. Harassment took various forms, often involving mild actions such as a dominant female moving towards a subordinate, or following it around. More rarely there were physical attacks on subordinates.

By detailed study of the social structure of the groups the scientists were able to determine relationships between mothers and offspring. They found that the number of offspring produced corresponded to the position in the dominance hierarchy, so that the higher-ranking females had greater reproductive success than their subordinates.

There was no evidence that harassment prevented copulation for any of the females, and the lower success of the subordinates seemed to be due to disruption of the physiological process of reproduction. The frequency of harassment of subordinates was observed to increase around the time of ovulation, when sexual activity was greatest. The scientists suggest that the disruption caused by harassment at that time may have prevented ovulation or induced spontaneous abortion.

By Nature-Times News Service.
Source: *Nature*, Vol 266, page 351 (March 24, 1977).
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University News

Cambridge

SIDNEY SUSSEX COLLEGE: Pre-elected into a David Thomson senior research fellowship (class C): P. M. S. Dawson, MA, PhD.

TRINITY HALL: Elected into an emeritus fellowship, B. Crutchley, MA.

Aberdeen

A grant of £26,000 has been awarded by the Scottish Development Department and the Department of the Environment for an investigation into the owner-occupied housing sector under D. Maclennan, of the department of political economy.

Exeter

Dr C. J. Holdsworth, MA, PhD (Cantab), reader in medieval history at University College London, has been appointed professor of history from September 28.

Other appointments

Senior lectureships: Dr A. J. Baird, English; Dr B. Cradwick, geology; Dr N. [illegible], history; P. English, law; G. A. Duller, mathematics; Dr S. M. Wood, obstetrics and gynaecology; Dr S. Bicudi, adult mental illness.

Lectureship: Dr R. Brand, Italian.

A grant of £15,000 has been made by the Science Research Council to Professor P. M. C. Lacey and Dr T. W. Davies for a three-year experimental investigation of the mechanisms of mineral extraction by water jets, with special emphasis on the winning of china clay.

Birmingham

The personal title of professor of economic history has been conferred on Dr Antony G. Hopkins, reader in the Centre of West African Studies.

Keele

The following honorary degrees are to be conferred in June:

MUniv: Sir Arthur Bryan, chairman and managing director, Josiah Wedgwood and Sons.

MSc: Mr E. S. Edees, botanist and natural historian.

DUniv: Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the EEC Commission.

DSc: Professor M. Stacey, emeritus professor of chemistry, Birmingham Univ.

To be conferred in December:

DUniv: The Rev B. A. Shaw, president-designate of the Methodist Conference.

East Anglia

A grant of £30,000 over three years has been received from seven British insurance companies to enable the climatic research unit to employ a full-time data manager and publish research information in a quarterly bulletin, *Climate Monitor*.

Kent

The title and status of professor have been conferred on Dr V. G. Mylne, BA(Oxon), PhD(Lond), reader in French, from March 1.

Other appointments

Readers: Dr D. A. Jackson, BSc (Salon), PhD(Lond), experimental physics; Dr J. A. M. McDonnell, BSc, PhD(Manc), space sciences; Dr E. A. Parker, MA, PhD(Cantab), radio communications; Dr W. A. Armstrong, BA, PhD(Birm), social and economic history; M. B. Hooker, LLM (New Zealand), comparative law; Dr C. K. Seymour-Ure, MA, DPhil(Oxon), [illegible], politics.

OBITUARY

LORD CRATHORNE

Former Conservative minister

Lord Crathorne, PC, TD, JP, who as Sir Thomas Dugdale, Bt, was Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries in the postwar Churchill government, died on March 26 at the age of 79. He was the first Baron. A Yorkshire landowner and farmer, he was Unionist MP for Richmond, Yorkshire, for 30 years.

Born in 1897, Thomas Lionel Dugdale was educated at Eton and Sandhurst. He joined the Royal Scots Greys in 1916 and served in the First World War during 1917 and 1918. After the war he was Captain and later Adjutant, and from 1931 a Major in the Yorkshire Hussars (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own) Yeomanry (TA).

His parliamentary career began in 1929 when he was elected Unionist MP for Richmond, Yorkshire, and he held the seat until 1959. Later he was Parliamentary Private Secretary to Sir Philip Cunliffe Lister (later Lord Swinton), President of the Board of Trade in the National Government, and he continued as his PPS when he was Colonial Secretary and Secretary for Air. In 1935 Dugdale was chosen by Stanley Baldwin, then Prime Minister, to be his Parliamentary Private Secretary.

Dugdale was a junior Lord of the Treasury from 1937 to 1940, after which he was on active service in Egypt until February, 1941. He then returned home and was remade Deputy Chief Government Whip.

He left the Whips' Office in 1942 to be chairman of the Conservative Party Organization of which he had been vice-chairman in the preceding year. But Dugdale was not destined to serve long at Conservative headquarters. Illness overtook him, and he felt compelled to resign in October, 1944. He received a baronetcy in the 1945 New Year Honours.

During the period of Labour Government, Dugdale became his party's chief spokesman in agricultural debates, a task for which his experience as a farmer equipped him with a fund of knowledge. He was an obvious choice as Minister of Agriculture in 1951. His was the task of infusing fresh energy into the country's efforts to increase food production while preserving the delicate balance between the consumers' needs and the producers' assurance of a guaranteed market and a reasonable price. By the summer of 1952 food production in Britain had increased by 41 per cent on the output of 1939.

He had been made a Privy Councillor in 1951, and in September 1953 he was made a Member of the Cabinet. But trouble was looming up for him in the shape of the Crichel Down affair, that "sorry and tangled tale", as it was called in *The Times*. An area of farmland in Dorset had been taken over by the Air Ministry for use as a bombing range and later had passed to the Ministry of Agriculture. The original owners applied at various time to repurchase or rent the land, but were refused. The Commissioners of Crown Lands eventually agreed to buy the land and to build a new farm if they could find a tenant. They found one and said that he could take over. The fact this was done behind the backs of the former owners and sitting tenants aroused the fury of farmers and Conservative backbenchers. A public inquiry was demanded. Granted after resistance by Dugdale it was conducted by Sir Andrew Clark, QC, whose report—a devastating document—was published in June 1954. It severely criticized various civil servants and said that they had deliberately sought to deceive the Minister.

Dugdale firmly asserted that his advisers had not wilfully deceived him, but when the debate on the report took place he announced his resignation having conceded the principle that the former owners of Crichel Down should be given the chance to buy it back.

On his retirement from Parliament in 1959 Dugdale was created Baron Crathorne. He was chairman of the Departmental Committee on the Law on Sunday Observance from 1961 to 1964; chairman of the North of England Advisory Committee for Civil Aviation from 1964 to 1972; a member of the Horserace Betting Levy Board from 1964 to 1973; and chairman of the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee from 1961.

He married, in 1936, Nancy, daughter of Sir Charles Tennant, and there were two sons. Lady Crathorne who was made an OBE in 1961, died in 1969. The heir to the barony is Lord Crathorne's son, the Hon Charles James Dugdale.

MR A. D. N. NABARRO

Mr Alan David Nunes Nabarro, OBE, a London solicitor who for nearly a lifetime fought off the medical effects of diabetes, and for a great part of it campaigned to end discrimination against diabetics, died on March 22 at the age of 62.

A well-known member of the Spanish-Portuguese Jewish community, Alan Nabarro was senior partner in the firm of Nabarro, Nathanson and Company until 1975, when he went into semi-retirement. Born in London in 1914, he was educated at University College School, Hampstead, became LLB in 1936, and in 1938 successfully appealed against his rejection as an air raid warden because of his diabetes from the age of seven. He volunteered to lead the Victoria Boys' Club, Whitechapel, and organized in 1940 a club for youngsters evacuated from Gibraltar. When the enlarged Victoria Boys' and Girls' Club moved to Hackney he became president, was later honorary life president, and in 1968 was awarded an OBE for his youth work.

Alan Nabarro was one of the first patients to be treated, as early as 1923 and at the age of nine, with insulin for his diabetes. Fifty years later he was the first Briton to receive the Joslin Medal for half a century's triumph over the affliction. By then he had been for nearly 30 years on the council of the British Diabetic Association; he was its honorary legal adviser and, from 1967, honorary secretary. He was the first British patient to be elected a vice-president of the International Diabetes Federation.

His mother, who nursed him devotedly and was told in 1922 that he could not be expected to live for more than six months, and his wife, the former Vera Kadish, who survives him with a daughter and a son, supported him in his fight against diabetes in a full, active life which gave encouragement to thousands of other diabetics.

MR RICHARD VICKERS

Mr Richard Vickers, who for many years served the *Sunday Times* and *The Daily Telegraph*, died on March 25 at the age of 72. After starting his career in the City office of *The Daily Telegraph* he rose to senior rank in the news sub-editors' room.

Before the Second World War members of *The Daily Telegraph* staff were encouraged by the late Lord Burnham to join the Territorials and "Vic", as one of those who did so, was called up in the Queen's Westminsters on the approach of hostilities. However, so depleted did *The Daily Telegraph* editorial staff become by the call-up that the War Office soon allowed him to return to his journalistic duties.

After working on many of the big war-time stories and serving as deputy chief sub-editor he became Parliamentary sub-editor. When he resigned in 1960 to join the *Sunday Times* as Chief Sub-editor in a whole-time capacity, his skill in recording Parliamentary business was marked by a lunch held in his honour at the House of Commons and presided over by Mr William Deedes, then Conservative MP for Ashford and now Editor of *The Daily Telegraph*.

Mr Vickers had been in charge of the sub-editorial direction on the *Sunday Times* since the war years, but as the bulk of this work in those days of smaller newspapers was done on Saturdays he had been able to combine it with his duties on *The Daily Telegraph*. He now devoted his entire attention to the *Sunday Times* and his judgment of news values and all-round journalistic abilities contributed in no small measure to the success of that newspaper. He served four *Sunday Times* editors—W. W. Hadley, H. V. Hodson, C. D. Hamilton and Harold Evans.

After his retirement as Chief Sub-editor he continued to serve the newspaper as Personal Assistant to the Editor. Latterly he was a consultant.

He leaves a widow, Marie, a son and two daughters.

MR BILLY TERNENT

Mr Billy Ternent, the band leader and conductor, has died at the age of 77. Born in Tyneside, Ternent played in a cinema trio at the age of 12 and while still under 20 was a conductor on the cinema circuit. In the 1920s and 1930s he played in music halls with the Selma Trio and at the KitKat Club in the Haymarket.

With the outbreak of the Second World War he became the leader of the BBC Dance Orchestra. His band was a national favourite and numbers like "Dream a Little Dream of Me" were household tunes. Postwar, with the advent of rock and roll, his fortunes declined briefly but the later resuscitation of interest in the big bands and melody by the BBC saw him back on the air again on programmes like Radio 2's *Breakfast Special* and the Sam Costa Show.

Mr Valentin Shashin, the Soviet Oil Minister, has died at the age of 60. Mr Shashin's 12 years as Oil Minister saw the Soviet Union overtake the United States as the world's leading oil producer.

Sir Lionel Gasson who died on March 16, at the age of 87, was formerly Inspector-General of Police, Madras Presidency.

MR FAIRCHILDS MacCARTHY

B. L. B. writes:

The death of Fairchilds MacCarthy will sadden the hearts of all lovers of the Cresta Run.

For 25 years (1947 to 1972) "Mac" was secretary to the St Moritz Tobogganing Club, undoubtedly the greatest secretary the club has ever had.

As secretary Mac was responsible for controlling the run and the riders and consequently their safety was largely in his hands.

When in control of the run Mac was a strict disciplinarian. He was in charge and let nobody make any mistake about that; and yet nobody was more popular than Mac.

It is pleasant to know that Mac's name is linked to the Cresta by the Fairchilds MacCarthy Cup, one of the outstanding races of the Cresta season and a most popular event.

No appreciation of Mac would be complete without paying a tribute to his charming wife Emily, whose love of the Cresta was as great as Mac's and whose dedication to the club played a great part in Mac's unique success.

Second in a series of case studies on dismissal, p 16

THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS

Compulsory steel price to strengthen European industry likely in mid-April

By Peter Hill

Proposals aimed at strengthening Europe's steel industry are expected to be implemented by the middle of next month after the European summit approved at the weekend a plan submitted by Viscount Etienne Davignon, the Commissioner for industry policy.

Commission officials in Brussels have already started discussions with steelmakers and other interested parties on the Davignon blueprint and preliminary details of the plan will be outlined next week.

It is hoped that a special meeting of the European Coal and Steel Community's consultative committee will *endorse* the detailed proposals soon and introduce a new regime of support for the steel industry.

A communiqué issued after the meeting of the nine heads of government in Rome stated: "The European Council (the *formal title of the summit*) expresses the wish that the Council of Ministers gives its urgent attention to the commission's proposals and initiatives on these issues".

Commission officials and representatives of the European steel industry had talks in Brussels at the end of last week on the plan, which will involve establishing mandatory minimum prices for reinforcing bars, voluntary prices on a number of other products and new financial aid for steel companies, linked to rationalization.

But those involved in the talks consider that there could be difficulties, although it is acknowledged that the Davignon plan goes a considerable way towards meeting the demands of an industry hit by a severe recession

Viscount Davignon, strongly backed by Mr Roy Jenkins, the EEC President, is seen to have won the political support of the European heads of state for his plan. But privately officials within the EECs competition directorate see some problems arising from implementing the scheme. Among steelmakers there is some concern that the commissioner is not being tough enough against imports of steel from countries outside the Community.

French steelmakers, particularly, have been pressing for tougher action against imports, and companies in the Italian state steel sector see the Davignon plan doing little to ease their financial plight.

Under the plan the Commission will set minimum prices for reinforcing bars (widely traded as a commodity product) where prices are very low. Indicative prices are to be set for other steel products, and the Commission plans to tighten its surveillance of imports through a licensing system.

The Davignon plan will be superimposed on a scheme drawn up by Mr Henri Simonet, his predecessor, and introduced at the beginning of this year. It is based largely on voluntary agreements by steelmakers to *limit their sales of selected* steel products within the Community.

But the new industry commissioner is also planning to achieve some degree of restructuring within the European industry which will involve new guidelines and control of expansion plans in order to ensure a modern and efficient productive capacity.

Last week Viscount Davignon stressed that he saw a need for the Community to make greater use of funds from the European Investment Bank, social and regional funds and the ECSC budget to finance the creation of new jobs and retraining of steelworkers made redundant through rationalization.

The Commission plans to raise £370m-£470m in loans for this purpose this year and about one third of the amount would be advanced at subsidized interest rates.

Duty plea: The executive commission of the EEC is seeking a three-month extension of the temporary 20 per cent anti-dumping duty on Japanese ball bearings and tapered roller bearings, a spokesman said on Friday (AP-Dow Jones reports).

The Community first imposed the duty in February for a period ending March 31. The spokesman said the Commission planned to ask for a three-month extension.

February's action was prompted by an investigation that led to the conclusion that Japanese manufacturers were selling their products as much as 30 per cent below market prices. Japan protested at the measure, *describing it as a hasty decision* taken without exhausting all the possibilities of making arrangements with the Japanese industry.

Churches group alleges complicity in repression by security forces

ICI policy in South Africa attacked

An inter-denominational church group has launched a campaign aimed at stopping what it alleges is ICI's complicity in repression by South African security forces.

The group, Christian Concern for Southern Africa, has sent a report to Sir Rowland Wright, chairman of ICI, suggesting that his group is involved because of the supply of military material in the republic.

The report, which has been distributed widely among the churches, many of whom are big shareholders in the company, also calls for pressure on ICI to bring about what it calls a "fundamental shift in policy away from rapid commercial expansion in South Africa *towards a greater emphasis on its existing* responsibilities to the black community".

ICI, it says, should consider a halt to all further financial support for its subsidiaries and associates which is not directed to this end.

CCSA also wants to see progress on the recognition of black trades unions and on wage levels, and calls for disclosure of information on industrial relations policies and what it describes as "the current relationship with the South African government in the munitions and nuclear fields".

In particular, it wants details of past and current contractual relationships for research, advice and management services in either the munitions or nuclear fields.

It asks for details of all board members and senior managerial and technical staff at ICI subsidiaries and associates who hold appointments on the boards of any South African government corporation or its subsidiaries concerned with weapons and munitions contracting or nuclear energy research.

The report examines the activities of ICI's wholly owned subsidiary ICI (South Africa), and the associate companies African Explosives and Chemical Industries (AECI) and South African Nylon Spinners (SANS).

The group admits that it has little firm up-to-date information on the munitions or nuclear fields, but comments in respect of AECI: "Given the company's accumulated expertise in both the munitions and uranium refining fields it seems highly likely that it still retains a significant involvement."

The CCSA report says that ICI's main role in the foundation of the South African munitions industry and what it refers to as "its reported continued involvement" through AECI "in the production of tear gas for the South African security forces" raises serious ethical and commercial questions.

"Similarly, the company's past involvement in the South African uranium industry and the increasing strategic importance that the industry is assuming, make it imperative that shareholders should seek assurances that the ICI group's undoubted expertise in these areas is not being placed at the disposal of the South African government."

A statement from ICI said: "We understand the concern of CCSA about the situation in South Africa and we appreciate that they have the welfare of the people of South Africa at heart, as we ourselves have, but we believe that South African people of every race have everything to gain through steady economic growth and as recently as October last year the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs said in the House of Commons that it was the Government's view that normal civil trade and investment should carry on in South Africa. We believe this is right."

The company would be looking into the report's views of conditions of employment of Africans working for ICI, and would be replying to this and other points raised after the report had been studied.

US leaders looking for Healey boldness

Influential leaders of the United States Government will be watching the British Budget with keen interest. They will be looking for indications that Mr Callaghan and Mr. Healey have the courage to advocate actions that may not please the left-wing of the Labour Party, but which are considered essential in Washington if Britain is to move towards sustained economic recovery.

These American leaders do not believe they will be disappointed. There is now a greater sense of optimism here in Britain's economic prospects than has been evident for quite some years. There is a deep respect, in particular, for Mr Callaghan's skills.

Officials here believe the key to Britain's economic success lies, above all, in drastic changes in the tax system. Cuts in taxes that provide substantial incentives to investment are seen as vital. There is the con*viction here that the leaders of* the British Government accept this view.

American taxation is much lower than the British level. Yet the Carter Administration considers it to be too harsh and aims to introduce significant cuts in a tax reform likely to be announced in the autumn.

Top Treasury and Federal Reserve Board officials believe that sustained United States economic prosperity can be achieved only if tax changes are made that foster greater investment.

Few Americans earning $6,000 or less a year pay any taxes, while it is only in the most exceptional cases that rich people pay the maximum tax rate on combined earned and unearned income of about 70 per cent.

So many tax deductions are available to all that, for example, a new Treasury study shows that the average effective tax rate in 1975 on the returns of 41,861 people with gross incomes of more than $200,000 a year was just 34.8 per cent.

American officials are acutely aware of the precarious situation that the British Government faces in the House of *Commons. They will be looking* more at the tone of the Chancellor's Budget, than scrutinizing the specific figures.

They will be seeking clear indications that Mr Healey intends to set a course that leads to increasing tax changes that spur business investment.

Mr Healey's actions since last summer have been viewed by some top officials as signifying a welcome and necessary change in British economic policy. It will hardly please the Chancellor to learn that a most senior United States official described him the other day as "the best conservative Chancellor of the Exchequer that Britain has had in 25 years".

The Prime Minister is seen as a courageous man of principle with the capacity to take actions that can produce a "British economic renaissance".

Frank Vogl

Tate to give details of jobs rundown today

By Ronald Emler

Tate & Lyle, Britain's sole cane sugar refiner after last year's controversial takeover of Manbré & Garton, will today announce details of its rationalization plans aimed at solving the industry's overcapacity which has been increased by the partial switch to beet sugar following entry to the European Community.

Union officials have been given an 11-page dossier detail*ing the plans, which are thought* to include a four to five-year rundown and the eventual disappearance of about 1,500 jobs. Nearly 1,000 jobs will be lost at Liverpool and Newton-le-Willows. Another 500 jobs would disappear from the London area, with small losses in employment in the group's other plants.

The company is expected to announce that 1,100 of the jobs being phased out will disappear through natural wastage and that about 400 posts will be created by diversification, though not necessarily in the locations where redundancies are to occur.

It is also expected that the company will announce that anybody made redundant will be offered alternative employment as the group diversifies.

However, it is thought that the unions will be sceptical about the proposals.

The action committee at the Liverpool refinery will report to the shop stewards today on the plans which were explained *to delegates in London last* week.

Meanwhile, Mr Eddie Loyden, Labour MP for Liverpool Garston and secretary of the Merseyside group of Labour MPs, said yesterday that he would be seeking a meeting *today with Mr John Silkin,* Minister of Agriculture, on his return from Brussels.

Mr Loyden said: "These proposals do not match assurances we were given when we met the Prime Minister last week to report on the unemployment crisis on Merseyside. Lord Ryder and the National Enterprise Board have been given a wide brief to review the overall situation and we will be asking that the rationalization proposals for the sugar industry are included."

Tate said late last year that it would keep at least four of the six plants operated by the newly merged group. While the Liverpool plant seems certain to suffer large job losses, the fate of operations at Newton-le-Willows and Hammersmith, London, will be known today.

Carter plan to 'force energy conservation'

Washington, March 26.—President Carter said today he will propose an unprecedented energy programme next month, aimed at forcing Americans to conserve rapidly dwindling domestic supplies of oil and natural gas.

"We hope to initiate immediately a consciousness in America of the need for conservation—we hope to initiate changes in the law that will force conservation," he said, in an interview with editors from across the country.

He said the proposals were being worked out under the direction of Mr James Schlesinger, his chief energy adviser.

He has said before that his energy proposals, to be revealed at a joint session of Congress on April 20, will be so tough that he will lose some of his personal popularity with the public.

He did not given specific details of the *programme*, but said it was the most complicated ever devised in the United States because it "involves incentives, patriotic motivations, mandatory constraints."

The President said he was not in favour of a crash programme to step up domestic production of oil and natural gas, adding that he thought the best investment was to conserve supplies already at hand.—Reuter.

Port Talbot steelworks gets reprieve

There has been a last minute reprieve for the Port Talbot steelworks which was threatened with closure after electricians voted on Friday to continue their strike.

The British Steel Corporation *announced* their decision to close the huge works where 13,000 men are employed and all production was due to cease at 6 am on Tuesday, leaving only safety men on duty.

Yesterday, full time officers of the electricians' union intervened to try to avert the closure of the works where an £850m development project recently had government sanction.

They have called a mass meeting of the 400 strikers for Tuesday afternoon and approached *the management* to halt the closedown procedure.

No steel has been made and no steel rolled since Friday, although one blast furnace and the finishing departments are still operating.

The British Steel Corporation management has now announced that it has agreed to defer the closure until the outcome of the Tuesday meeting is known.

The men are seeking what amounts to a £10-a-week increase to restore differentials.

Director quits in new BSC reorganization

By Our Industrial Staff

One of the British Steel Corporation's longest serving executives has resigned and the activities of BSC(UK) have been transferred to the finance section in further reorganization with the corporation.

Mr Henry Mutkin, executive director of BSC(UK) since 1973, who joined the organizing committee for the nationalization of the steel industry in 1967 as assistant to the late Lord *Melchett, the BSC's first chair*man, has resigned and will leave the BSC at the end of this month.

A former merchant banker with Hill, Samuel and later a chartered accountant with Peat, Marwick, Mitchell, Mr Mutkin is expected to leave his £15,000-a year job with state steel to take up another position in the City.

BSC(UK) is a wholly owned subsidiary of the BSC and has a fulltime staff of 12. It is responsible for owning and managing the corporation's £40m interests in 30 profitable companies, owned jointly with private companies, the corporation's acquisition, mergers and disposals of businesses, and establishing joint enterprises in Britain.

From April 1 the activities of the subsidiary are to be integrated into the finance department which, as a result of an executive shake-up last year, is under the direction of Mr Frank Holloway, who was formerly in charge of production control and supply. Elevation of Mr Holloway to the finance post resulted in the departure of Mr Leonard Kingshott, formerly managing director—finance.

There had been considerable speculation that Mr Holloway would join the fulltime board at the end of this financial year but under outline plans for a policy-making board revealed last week by Sir Charles Villiers, the corporation's chairman, it would appear that the bulk of the BSC's new style board will be made up of non-executive directors—including civil servants and trade unionists.

Sir Charles said in the magazine *Accountancy*, that hard work was seen as a fool's game. Investment was not encouraged when the prospective return on that investment hardly covered the inflated cost of borrowing money.

Tories publish VAT plan

By Our Industrial Staff

On the eve of the Budget, the Conservative Party is publishing the findings of its VAT task force, set up last year by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the shadow Chancellor.

It endorses the philosophy of the tax, introduced by the Heath Government in 1973, but recommends five main changes

There should be a return "as soon as possible" to the original basis of a "single positive rate" (plus a zero rate and exemptions) and the turnover *threshold* for compulsory registration should be doubled to £10,000.

Traders should be given relief from VAT on bad debts and a simpler "accounts" basis should be introduced as an optional alternative for smaller businesses.

The task force also recommends that a select committee of the Commons should be empowered to scrutinize and review the workings of value added tax.

Accountants follow CBI in criticism of price code

By Our Industrial Staff

With the TUC bringing increasing pressure to bear on Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, for a tightening of prices legislation, yet another influential body, the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies, has released details of its criticism of the draft price code issued last month.

The accountants follow very *much the lines of the Confederation* of British Industry in arguing that companies should not be subject to investigation on price levels if they are within their profit reference levels, and that during a Price Commission investigation automatic price rises up to a stated percentage should be permitted and then trimmed as necessary when the study is complete.

This is the same system as the CBI's suggested "rollback" clause, which it is thought likely Mr Hattersley will reject.

While most organizations representing commerce and industry have pleaded for a simpler system of prenotification for larger companies, the accountants have gone as far as to suggest that large companies should not have to prenotify if the price increase in question does not raise a company's profit above the reference level.

Mr Hattersley is almost certain to have made up his mind which way to bend in granting concessions over the new prices legislation, due to come into effect on August 1.

In the Commons last week the Prime Minister promised a Bill "in a week or two", but most observers believe that the proposals, in so far as they may differ from those in last month's consultative document, will have been drawn up to complement tomorrow's Budget as part of the Government's overall economic strategy.

Engineering study calls for closer links with education

Closer links between industrial companies and schools are today urged in a report produced by the Engineering Employers' Federation.

The report, *Graduates in Engineering*, wants education reformed to meet the needs of *industry, and pay incentives to* encourage more qualified students to enter industry.

Introducing this report of a working party, Mr Astley Whittall, the EEF president, says that unless industry attracts people with the skills needed to boost Britain's prosperity, "our products will become increasingly out of date, demand will fall and unemployment will increase".

The report recommends companies throughout Britain to establish links with schools. Every engineering group should have regular contact with at least one school.

There should be close co-operation with local education authorities and working parties of educationists, employers and trade unionists to improve contacts between schools and industry. Similar links should be established with colleges and universities.

The engineering industry should provide careers staff and teachers with more information on opportunities and the federation should invite universities and polytechnics to set up a joint *working party to examine* the kind of engineering education needed now and for the future.

Firms should give greater attention to future manpower requirements, pay special attention to postgraduate training and career planning and be encouraged to sponsor engineering students.

NEB urged to halt tanning project

By Our Industrial Staff

Lord Ryder, chairman of the National Enterprise Board, has been urged to halt a £3m deal with one Britain's leading leather tanning groups, pending a detailed investigation of the industry by the NEB and the Department of Industry.

Mr Michael Grylls, Conservative MP for North-west Surrey, said yesterday that, if the deal went through between the NEB and the Barrow Hepburn group, there could be considerable redundancies among workers employed by other tanning *companies throughout* the country.

Under the terms of the deal, disclosed earlier this month, Barrow Hepburn is selling about half its tanning interests for £500,000 to the NEB with the board also injecting a further £2.5m in the form of loan capital.

In a letter to Lord Ryder, Mr Grylls, who is vice-chairman of the Opposition's industry committee, said that many other British tanning companies were deeply concerned over the board's plan to take a shareholding in a single company—whose tanning subsidiary many people considered to be one of the least efficient and the least profitable in the industry.

He said: "There is a widespread view that this intervention in Barrow Hepburn will force other tanners to cut back their own production of leather, and this will certainly *mean more unemployment* at tanneries in towns including Garston, Liverpool, Nottingham, Leeds, Bristol, Yeovil and Northampton—to name but a few."

Mr Grylls, who plans to question Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, today on what he termed as "this serious error of judgment by the NEB", has expressed serious worries about the NEB plan to form a joint company with Barrow Hepburn—British Tanning Products.

He said yesterday that it would be impossible for the new company to operate efficiently because control of raw material buy and the sale of leather would be left to Barrow Hepburn and would not be under the control of BTP.

"There are so many questions hanging over this highly selective intervention by the NEB, which would have a very serious effect on employment throughout the tanning industry, that I think a review should be carried out immediately.

"Both Parliament and the public should be fully informed before any approval is given for this injection of taxpayers' money into the Barrow Hepburn group."

VW defies cartel office to raise German prices

From Peter Norman
Bonn, March 27

Volkswagenwerk AG today ignored a warning from the Cartel Office by deciding to raise the West German prices of Volkswagen and Audi cars by an average of 3.9 per cent tomorrow.

Earlier this month the Cartel Office took the unprecedented step of writing to Volkswagen, Opel and Ford—the three largest German car manufacturers—telling them not to pass on *higher costs in the form of* higher prices on the German market.

Although Germany's car makers are facing an increase of about 8.5 per cent in personnel costs this year, domestic sales are booming and the companies interim reports reveal that 1976 was a very profitable year.

Moves to ease Heathrow jams expected

By Our Industrial Staff

Government measures are expected soon for relieving congestion at Heathrow and transferring some airline traffic to Gatwick where a £70m modernization programme is due for completion next year.

Discussions have been going on for some time with interested airlines, and although the Department of Trade says that no final decisions have been taken, it is widely thought that one of the measures the Government is likely to implement is the banning of whole-plane charter traffic from Heathrow.

The fifth round of talks on the Bermuda Agreement begins today and among the topics for discussion will be the transfer of some transatlantic traffic from Heathrow to Gatwick. Gatwick, now handling some six million passengers a year, will have a capacity for 16 million in 1978.

British Shipbuilders board lacks recruits

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Whitehall has run into difficulties in the recruitment of people to serve on the board of British Shipbuilders, the new state shipbuilding corporation.

Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry had originally hoped to announce the formation of the new corporation later this week. Although this may still be possible, it seems more likely that the statement will have to be deferred until next week.

The delay in recruitment of board members has become a source of concern to the present members of the organizing committee and its staff.

The nationalization Bill has received the Royal Assent and the Government has announced that Vesting Day will be July 1 this year. But a statement on the formation of the corporation, requires a quorum of seven *board members plus the chair*man. The Act provides for a maximum board of 21 including the chairman.

Difficulties encountered by the organizing committee and Department of Industry officials in filling the vacant places arise from the personal difficulties faced by some of those selected as first-choice *board members.*

Admiral Sir Anthony Grenn, former controller of the Navy and Mr Ken Griffin, a former trade unionist will be appointed chairman and deputy chairman respectively, with Mr Michael *Casey, the former Industry* Department under secretary taking on the job of chief executive and deputy chairman.

Mr Ross Belch, managing director of the Scott Lithgow group and a part time member *of the organizing committee*, and Mr Les Gregory, of the electricians' union, who has also served as a part time member of the committee, are both expected to be confirmed as members of the British Shipbuilders board.

Mr Tom McIver, chief executive of the Swan Hunter group has been strongly tipped to become a part-time member, but there is doubt whether Mr John Chalmers, of the Boilermakers Society and a part time member of the organizing committee, will join the board on formation.

More than a *score of possible* candidates have been canvassed, but the difficulties in finding a quorum are likely to occupy a considerable amount of time over the next few days.

Eventually the aim of British *Shipbuilders* will be to have part-time directors composed of two merchant shipbuilders, one naval shipbuilder and an engine builder together with three or four representatives from the Confederation of Shipbuilding *and Engineering Unions.*

Also, there will be executives, responsible for finance, industrial relations, corporate planning and marketing and operations. But the composition of the top management has been undermined by the resignation of Mr Graham Day, the chief executive designate and three others in the past four months

Tax rise fears hit S Africa gold shares

South Africa's Budget will be announced next week amid fears that the rate of withholding tax on company dividends will be sharply increased.

The strength of the rumours has been such that South African gold shares have fallen back, despite a rise in the gold price. On Friday, bullion rose $1 to $153¾. Yet all but five of the South African gold shares lost ground.

The present withholding tax rate is 15 per cent, but there has been speculation in London and New York that the rate will *rise to 25 per cent, or even* 40 per cent.

The direct effect on United Kingdom corporate and private investors from any rise should be negligible at first because of the taxation treaty between the two countries. However, any increase could lead to a weakening of South African share price Mining, page 19

On other pages

Lending rate 10½ pc

The Bank of England's minimum lending rate was maintained at 10½ per cent with the Bank continuing to use its discretionary power of setting the rate at the level of its own choice. The following are the results of Friday's Treasury Bill Tender:

Applicns	£1,093m	Allotted	£500m
Bids at	[illegible]	Received	[illegible]
Prev wk	[illegible]	Received	[illegible]
At Rte	[illegible]	Prv wk	[illegible]
Next Fridy	£500m	Replace	£500m

MANAGEMENT

Edited by Rodney Cowton

The second in a series of case studies describing the circumstances leading to a dismissal

When private lives intrude

Dismissal and the law

by Geoff Smith

The characters and the company described are fictitious and do not represent any person or organization in real life.

The case

Mrs Carol Barclay, attractive, vivacious, married and in her early thirties, was employed as a check-out assistant at the Midland branch of the supermarket chain, Food-Markets. She joined the company in May, 1974.

In January, 1976 Melvyn Dewar was transferred to Leicester from the Coventry branch and was promoted to the position of deputy manager. He had been employed by Food-Markets for five years. He was aged 28 and was single.

After a couple of months rumours began to circulate about Dewar and Carol Barclay spending a lot of time in each other's company. One female employee said that she had seen them together one evening at a public house on the outskirts of town. Charlie from the stock room could have sworn that he had seen them on a Sunday afternoon walking hand in hand in the local park. After a further month or so these and similar comments came to the attention of Leslie Allen, the branch manager. He decided to discuss the matter first with Dewar and then with Mrs Barclay.

In the staff handbook, which had been issued to all new employees since the grocery store days of the 1930s, there were a number of rules governing conduct. One of them was that "any employee, married or single, who forms an association with another employee who is married, which might prejudice that person's or his or her own marriage status, is liable to dismissal".

Dewar was seen by the local branch manager. He was asked: "Is there any truth in the comments about your association with Mrs Barclay?" Dewar replied: "Yes, we do have a relationship." Then he was asked: "Are you aware of the staff rule concerning such matters?" Dewar replied: "Yes, I know of the rule but to my knowledge it is no longer used. I cannot recall it being invoked since I joined the company. After all, it has been in the staff handbook since 1935 and surely it is inappropriate in these more permissive days."

Leslie Allen said: "I do not agree with you. The rule is still applicable. It is particularly important to avoid irate husbands or wives coming on to the premises, causing trouble and prejudicing customer relations."

Dewar was asked to terminate the relationship. He refused and was dismissed with one month's pay in lieu of notice. Mrs Barclay, when seen, also refused to end the relationship and instead offered her resignation which was accepted.

Dewar complained of unfair dismissal. A conciliation officer attempted an out-of-tribunal settlement without success.

Would the tribunal have found fair or unfair dismissal in this case?

Assessment

Probably the tribunal would have found that Dewar had been fairly dismissed. When the ground for dismissal is conduct the tribunals do not necessarily insist that the behaviour complained of must have occurred while the employee was performing his contract. However, Schedule 1 to the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974, appears to require that there must be some relationship between the conduct and the contract.

In Spiller v F. J. Wallis 1975, the Chelmsford tribunal found that Mrs Spiller had been fairly dismissed after refusing to terminate an association with a male colleague. The company had a rule that any married employee who became involved in an association which could prejudice his or her marriage status, or any single employee forming such an association with such a married employee would "leave the company no alternative but to consider dispensing with the services of either or both parties".

The tribunal relied on the existence of the company rule; the fact that previous associations involving employees had "given rise to difficulties" for the company, such as "an angry scene when an irate husband had appeared in the shop", Mrs Spiller's refusal to discontinue the association and the fact that "some employees talked about the association when they should have been working".

On the other hand, in Cassidy v H. C. Goodman 1975, Cassidy's dismissal for refusing to comply with his employer's request "to put his life in order" was found unfair by the Reading tribunal. Cassidy had associations with some female employees and he would brook no interference in his private life.

The tribunal stated: "For an employee to be justifiably dismissed on the grounds of his private conduct it has to be of exceptional gravity or be capable of damaging the employer's business." Cassidy's behaviour was found to be neither intolerable nor detrimental to the company's business.

An important difference between the two cases was the existence of a rule governing such conduct in Spiller v F. J. Wallis 1975 but not in the case of Cassidy v H. C. Goodman 1975. It should be kept in mind that staff rules form a part of the contract of employment. However, employers cannot always rely on the existence of conduct rules to guarantee fair dismissal. Tribunals assess the reasonableness of rules and whether they have been reasonably applied in the circumstances.

In a case of off-duty conduct the main point is how the incident concerned affects or is connected with employment. The factors that tribunals usually take into account are the sacked person's job and status; the nature of the conduct; the effect of the misbehaviour on the reputation or integrity of the employer; whether it was made clear beforehand that such an event could lead to dismissal; what the employer knew about the lapse at the time of the dismissal; and how the decision to dismiss was handled and the way in which it was carried out.

The author is a member of the staff at Ashridge Management College.

The sweetness of diversification

Booker McConnell's preliminary results issued last week show that its diversification from a Caribbean sugar producer into food wholesaling, engineering and a host of apparently unlikely trades from pharmaceuticals to health foods, has finally paid off.

The results for the 12 months ending in December, are the first to cover the period since the group relinquished its operations in Guyana and hence shed most of its original connexions with the sugar trade.

The disposal of interests on which the group was founded and which accounted for up to 40 per cent of annual profits during the past five years has made a surprisingly small dent in the year's turnover and profit levels. Profit after tax attributable to ordinary shareholders for the year was £6.64m, compared with £6.07m for 1975. External turnover stood at £356.1m, compared with almost £374m the year before.

Although sharp and traumatic for a company which had roots there dating back to the early nineteenth century, the break with Guyana which finally occurred last summer, was long expected. By the early 1950s it had become clear that Guyanese resentment against the traditional sugar producers made the company vulnerable. A train of acquisitions and diversifications elsewhere was set in progress then which formed the basis of the present eight divisions.

Michael Caine, the Booker McConnell chief executive, denies that the early acquisitions were haphazard, but he admits that they were put together in a hurry.

One major unsuccessful diversification was into the wholesale automotive business in western Canada in the 1960s. While no loss was made at the time of disposal in 1966, it was acknowledged that Booker's management strength was not adequate to operate it successfully.

Others were more successful. Booker today claims to be the largest food wholesaler in Britain (except perhaps for the CWS) and also has a large stake in food retailing.

Mr Michael Caine, Booker McConnell chief executive: keen on the monitoring of each company's performance.

The groundwork for its food distribution division, where after-tax profits climbed by 64 per cent to £1.88m last year to make it the largest in the group, was laid with the purchase of Alfred Button and Sons in 1957. During the next 15 years came a series of purchases of similar companies, the latest of which was Kinloch (Provision Merchants) last November.

During the past five years or so the activities of the division—ranging from Keencost cash-and-carry depots to Mace, one of the three largest voluntary grocery groups, and to deliveries to the catering trade—have been streamlined and rationalized.

The benefits of the modernization programme have begun to show during the past two years or so, to yield the very high percentage increase recorded for 1976. Mr Caine says there is more growth to come, particularly from the catering side.

Health foods, in which Booker McConnell has a big stake and which have satisfyingly high profit margins, are also tipped for future growth possibly abroad, as well as at home.

Fluid engineering, which with after-tax profits of £1.65m (up by 78 per cent on 1975) was the second largest profit contributor last year grew out of general engineering which in turn developed from the sugar business. The two subsidiaries, SPP Group and Plenty & Son, are involved in fluid engineering design and manufacture and market filters, pumps and other equipment for the oil and irrigation industries.

Plenty, which serves the oil industry, has benefited from the new search for oil arising from the Middle East crisis. Like SPP, Plenty is hopeful of developing export markets.

Of the six remaining divisions, the alcohol subsidiary United Rum Merchants (owned jointly with the American Hiram Walker company) supplies rum, and Tia Maria liqueur, and arose from historical West Indian sugar connexions.

A similar relationship can be traced in shipping where the Booker Line operates five ocean-going ships mainly carrying general manufactured goods from the United Kingdom and returning with sugar, rum and timber from the Caribbean. Likewise, the overseas trade division has from its origins in sugar various other activities including retailing in several countries, Zambia among them.

The agriculture division, which earned an after-tax profit of £160,000 (down from £301,000) last year, provides managerial and technical services for projects, particularly sugar, in various countries and has similar fairly obvious connexions with the traditional business.

The same can be said of the general engineering division which, among other things, specializes in plant and machinery for sugar producing. This division suffered a loss of £558,000 after tax (compared with a profit of £935,000) last year owing mainly to the effects of inflation on a contract for a Sudanese sugar factory which was quoted at a fixed price.

Complete oddballs in the pack, however, are artists' services, handling copyrights of a number of best-selling authors like Dennis Wheatley, Ian Fleming and Agatha Christie. This is said to have come about over a game of golf between the then chairman and Ian Fleming at an early stage of the diversification programme when the group was described as "lashing out looking for the gold pot at the end of the rainbow".

However, since the authors' division trades profitably—it turned in after-tax profits of £487,000 (up by 37 per cent) last year and can be run by "a man and a boy" from head office—nobody is anxious to see it chopped off for the sake of corporate tidyness.

Certainly, during its recent past Booker McConnell has demonstrated a rare ability to turn a large collection of small and sometimes eccentrically run businesses into workable units. Possibly its long and sometimes bitter experience in negotiating with governments in the sugar trade has helped, but so has tight financial discipline.

Both Mr Caine and his deputy chief executive, Michael Wildy, are keen to ensure that there is continual monitoring of all companies' performances so that, in the event of any slippage, remedial action can be taken quickly.

Each of the divisions, which may be responsible for 12 or more separate subsidiaries, operates as a separate profit entity under an executive committee. This committee meets once a week and each month examines profit returns against forecast performance (a new experience for some of the entrants who formerly "left things like tax calculations to the auditor"). The committee also tries to establish a two-way flow of information so that ideas originating from the companies concerned can be evaluated.

Mr Caine sees the group's main future growth coming from its existing businesses. But while he does not intend to increase the diversity of the group's operations, equally he will not commit it to turning down any useful acquisition opportunities if and when they arise.

Patricia Tisdall

Business appointments

Weir Alloy chooses managing director

Mr Derek Coyle has been made managing director of Weir Alloy Products, formed to specialize in ground engaging equipment manufactured by the Weir Group.

Mr David Buck of Edward R. Buck & Sons, has been elected chairman of the Shirt Manufacturers' Federation.

Mr Alan Clarke becomes finance director of Tube Investments machine division.

Mr Michael Thompson has been made managing director of Delta Mead International (UK).

Mr T. G. C. Halliwell has replaced Mr P. M. Tapscott as chairman of Harold Whitehead and Partners.

Mr Michael Rimmer becomes managing director of Comex Diving (UK).

As a result of the takeover by Lourho, Dunford and Elliott has appointed to the board the following directors: Mr R. W. Rowland, Mr F. A. Butcher, Mr Edward du Cann, Mr R. F. Dunlop and Mr D. A. Norton.

Mr Geoffrey Lee has been appointed deputy chairman of British Gas Corporation's West Midlands region from April 1.

Mr Nigel Henley has been made managing director of Asia Pacific Capital Corporation. He is succeeded as an executive director of Citicorp International Bank by Mr Lloyd Bankson.

Mr Derek Hindley has been made a director of Sinclair Radionics.

Mr C. H. F. Godber has been appointed managing director of Betz. Mr A. E. Aikman has joined the board.

Mr William Hill has been made managing director of GS Chemicals.

Mr G. V. Shaw becomes managing director of McKechnie Metals.

Mr John Stephenson has joined the main board of Northern Rock Building Society. Mr Anthony Dickinson has retired.

Mr Michael Farback, Mr Christopher Sullivan and Mr Brian Thomas have been made directors of City Link Transport Holdings.

Mr J. G. Cranmer joins the board of J. and J. Makin Paper Mills.

Mr Emery C. Johnson has been named managing director of Kaiser Trading (UK).

Mr A. W. John has been elected chairman of Property Holdings and Investment Trust in succession to Mr D. Hewitt, who is retiring, but will remain a director.

Mr Raud V. Arasko, executive vice-president of International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, has been elected a director.

Mr F. G. Mann has been appointed a non-executive director of Exchange Telegraph (Holdings).

Mr Julian Markham has been elected president of the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers.

Dr T. Browaldh is to be appointed an advisory member of the board of Unilever NV.

In brief

Call for pay rise to halt brain drain

Top management will continue to leave Britain unless the Government lets companies pay more, Mr Garry Long, deputy managing director of the MSL Group, London management consultants, said.

Overseas demand for executives was rising. His company's analysis of overseas demand for British executives showed that in 1975 average overseas demand was 700 executives a month. In 1976 it went to more than 1,000 a month and the figure showed no sign of dropping.

If incomes policy restrictions were lifted employers would probably have to pay bigger wage rises for executives than they had been used to.

Sunday overtime for Ford plant

The Ford car plant at Halewood, Liverpool, worked its first Sunday overtime shift this year. It was in place of the small night shift due to be worked on Maundy Thursday, April 7, which has been cancelled to increase the time off over Easter.

About 4,000 production men worked in the bodystamping and assembly plants, and a management spokesman said last night they had produced up to 450 cars, mainly Escorts, worth just under £1m at retail prices.

Dunlop expansion

Dunlop is to invest £1.5m in expanding and modernizing its hydraulic hose operations in the North-east. The scheme includes a new factory at Sunderland, which will provide up to 80 jobs by the end of the year, and new equipment at the Gateshead factory, according to a spokesman.

Hongkong buyers

A Hongkong buying mission will visit London from May 10 to 13 to look at the market for industrial raw materials and advanced consumer goods. The delegation will be interested in products including textiles, chemicals, dyestuffs, metals, machinery and domestic equipment.

Cheaper coffee hope

World green coffee prices "may begin to drop by the end of the year", Mr William C. Bowser, a United States Government analyst, has forecast in *Foreign Agriculture* magazine, but, he said, there would have to be a "sizable drop-off" in total demand in 1977.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Frittering away the oil windfall from the N Sea

From Mr Terry Simms

Sir, While I can think of "worse things than North Sea oil" that could happen to this country, there are many of us who share Robert Davies' fear (Business Letters, March 24) that we will just fritter this windfall away—indeed we have already made a good start on this. With debts amounting to £30,000m (or are they £40,000m?) and allowing for the interest charges on this accumulating debt, about one third and possibly more of our North Sea oil (at today's price) is already committed to paying off this debt.

With the prospect of a revaluing £ (thanks to North Sea oil) making our manufactured goods uncompetitive on the world markets, the massive investment we are going to make in other energy sources (be they coal, nuclear, wave or other forms of solar energy), and the euphoria and expectations already created by all the propaganda (much of this government instigated), the prospect for the 1990s is positively frightening.

We are condemning ourselves, our children and our grandchildren to a future of disillusionment, misery and even conflict—but to whom do we look to raise our awareness to the level where we will have both the ability and the will to look and act ahead?

As I see it, the initiative has to come from ourselves, as individuals, and it is only the hope that we will be able to encourage ourselves to take more responsibility for our individual actions, for example, acting more responsibly than we have done these past decades in the mandates we give our governments (but this is only one aspect of our "actions") that sustains my main hope for the future.

Yours optimistically
TERRY SIMMS,
49 Heaton Grove,
Bradford 9,
West Yorkshire.
March 24.

Higher charges for gas

From Mr Kenneth Winckles

Sir, Surprisingly, there does not seem to have been any protest on the part of gas consumers concerning the intention of the Gas Board and the Government to raise charges retrospectively based on first meter readings after April 1. This means that the heavy winter quarter will be caught without warning.

How are people expected to budget if retrospective charges are to be raised in this manner? The proposal may be legal—I do not know—but it is certainly immoral. I can only suggest all meters be read by householders on March 31 and the reading submitted promptly to the gas board.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH WINCKLES,
Moor House,
Fishers Wood,
Sunningdale,
Ascot, Berkshire.
March 15.

Tax certificates for subcontractors

From Mr A. Lewis

Sir, The Inland Revenue are bringing in new measures with effect from April 5 to counteract the abuse of the "lump" system in the subcontracting industry. The new measures impose certain obligations on contractors to make tax deductions on payment to a subcontractor without the necessary certificate. The term "subcontractor" in this context includes many substantial bona fide and long-established companies.

There have been many hundreds of thousands of applications in the past few months. The Revenue appear to be totally incapable of coping with them all, and it seems inevitable now that after April 5, chaos will prevail in the construction industry, which could result in a considerable number of contractors breaking the law, or alternatively, closing their business. The registration is, in effect, a licence to be in business, which exists in no other industry.

Is it not possible that some pressure can be brought to bear on the Revenue to defer the introduction of the scheme to give them time to get their own house in order!

Yours faithfully,
A. LEWIS,
Lewis & Co.,
29/31 Oxford Street,
London, W1R 1RE.

Objection to Hitachi plant proposal

From Mr J. C. Crowley

Sir, The report in Business News (March 21) that the Radio Industry Council objects to the proposal by the Japanese Hitachi company to establish a factory in Britain is almost unbelievable. There are some well-known large British companies who employ Japanese workers through their practice of importing Japanese hi-fi products and selling them here under British names. Why should objection be made to the employment of British workers by the Japanese in this country?

Yours faithfully,
J. C. CROWLEY,
The Cottage on the Common,
Chiselborough,
Stoke sub Hamdon,
Somerset TA14 6TL.
March 21.

Marconi since the GEC merger

From Mr R. Telford

Sir, I found it hard to believe the evidence of my eyes when I read Mr Hardcastle's letter of March 1. I cannot begin to imagine his motives in writing such a letter but I can, and indeed must, comment on his misguided and unsupported assertions.

As managing director of the Marconi Company at the time of the merger with GEC, I can have no quarrel with the statement that Marconi was "an exciting entrepreneurial company with modern ideas", but Mr Hardcastle's total ignorance of the notable and continuing progress that has been made since the merger by the GEC-Marconi group of electronics companies, must mean that he has for some years closed his eyes, ears and mind to the facts that would have denied his allegations.

I am still the managing director of the Marconi Company and of GEC-Marconi Electronics Limited, and I can state proudly and categorically that our expansion since the merger has been impressive by any standards (as our competitors in the world could testify). Comparing 1976 with 1970, annual sales have trebled, whilst orders have increased five times (thus assuring even more rapid future expansion). Over the same period of time export orders have increased eight times and the GEC-Marconi export tally for this financial year will be over £200m.

Many will have noticed the recent increased penetration of the difficult US aviation and defence market (flight control systems, head-up displays for F16 and artillery computers) to add to significant civil sales in television equipment and electronic instruments. Another recent, noteworthy £50m order was for the supply of civil air traffic control equipment to Saudi Arabia.

Although not counted in the above figures, the Electronics Group also has responsibility for GEC Transportation Projects Limited, and a few months ago this systems company captured the order for a new electric railway in Brazil worth £150m of UK exports from GEC and other British companies. If we are "defensive and dull", heaven help the competition when we really get going!

These results have not been achieved without the preceding huge and increasing investment in research and development and also in overseas marketing. To design and sell the products and to manufacture, install and commission them in all parts of the world has meant a large increase in staff of scientists, engineers, technicians, craftsmen, operators and office staff, and in the past three years and against the tide, we have recruited 5,500 additional staff (including an additional 700 apprentices).

Total employment in GEC-Marconi in the UK is now over 30,000 including 2,400 apprentices under training, and recruitment must continue at a substantial rate. Our employment in Scotland alone has *increased* by 1,000 over the past two years and I compare this figure with Hewlett Packard Limited's total Scottish employment of 800 people!

Efficiently to employ the staff we have recruited, and also to re-equip existing staff with the modern equipment available, has meant a large capital investment programme which has been increasing substantially year by year. New factories are currently being built at Hillend in Scotland and Portsmouth in England to name but two. Many millions of pounds were spent last year, for example, on computers, automatic design and test equipment and numerically controlled machine tools and measuring equipment.

This continuing expansion by a company that is already one of the largest electronic engineering companies in the world, could not have been achieved without the full backing of, and very positive stimulation from Sir Arnold Weinstock and his colleagues on the GEC board.

With this background, morale in the company must be good, despite the social, political and economic environment in which engineering industry works today. Status is low; rewards are low and taxation and inflation are excessively high. Differentials have been considerably eroded and the material incentives to be creative and to assume extra responsibilities, be it in design, or marketing, or production are virtually non-existent. With the reducing expenditure of our home customers in defence, broadcasting and television, telecommunications and so on, we can only expand by still further increasing our exports, in many divisions to 70 or 80 per cent of our total output.

And despite these loyal, unsung efforts and achievements, we have to suffer the indignity of publicity being given in your great newspaper to the charge that we are a dull lot who compare very unfavourably with the dynamic efforts of the subsidiary of an American company whose greatness and contribution to the national well-being consists of importing about £23m of United States equipment and manufacturing a further £13m in the United Kingdom! Might not British be best for a change.

ROBERT TELFORD,
GEC-Marconi Electronics,
Marconi House,
Chelmsford, CM1 1PL

South Wales seeks fresh work

Industry in the regions

The recession has hit everywhere in Britain hard, but it poses special problems for those parts of the country which are having to cope with its ravages against a background of long-term decline.

In South Wales, which was one of the hardest hit regions of Britain during the 1930s, unemployment is still well above the national average and there are increasing worries about the future.

For what the recession is doing is to make it much harder to attract the new industries that are needed to continue the industrial restructuring necessary to break away from the old dependence on coal and iron.

These two industries, which have long been the main pillars of employment in industrial South Wales, have declined sharply in relative importance in recent years. Coal employed over 80,000 people in 1965; now it employs less than 40,000.

The steel industry has seen slow progress towards building up the kind of modern sector which is necessary, but even during the past few years job loss has been heavy at some plants, particularly up in the valleys, away from the big coastal plants at Port Talbot and Llanwern.

There are signs that coal at least has finally stabilized after its years of retreat in the face of oil imports; there is even a new pit opening up at Ammanford.

But the new jobs which will be needed to cope with the rising population in the coming years, and break down the existing unemployment, are proving hard to find.

To take the central and eastern valleys, which is where the heart of the problem lies, the total job loss in the past 15 years from just three industries—coal, steel and transport—was 54,000. Only 14,000 new jobs have been created, leading to a net migration from the area of 50,000 in the 1960s alone.

Some of these (about 10,000), just moved down to the coastal strip including Cardiff and Newport. But the rest went altogether, tired of waiting for job opportunity which did not come.

Although there has been a dedicated effort to attract new employment to South Wales, and the industrial base of the area is a great deal more widely spread than it was 20 years ago, the successes of regional policy have been limited.

A recent study suggested that in South Wales as a whole something like 30,000 jobs were created by government regional policy incentives in the 12 years to 1972.

At first sight, this is fairly impressive, but when it is examined more closely all sorts of worrying questions arise about how much impact the policy has really had and whether it will last.

First, many of the jobs were for women. Although it is natural that female participation rates were rising in Wales as everywhere else in the United Kingdom during this period, jobs for women workers do not provide employment for displaced coalminers.

Secondly, the industries where the jobs were created—cars, clothing and footwear and engineering—are ones where the United Kingdom competitiveness is gravely at question at the moment.

There is a real danger that the new growth industries brought in during the 1960s could turn out to be the great industrial problems of the late 70s and 80s.

This is particularly true of the footwear and clothing industries, which are facing ever tougher competition from abroad.

Faced with the problem, some government-backed agencies in Wales, like the Development Corporation for Wales, are making great efforts to attract new jobs, particularly in the service sector.

But they face a number of problems. The first is the Government's industrial strategy which commits it to cutting back on service jobs, particularly in the public sector. The second is the fact that regional policy, which for all its faults has been one of their strong cards in trying to attract industry, seems to be being applied less firmly.

Faced with this gloomy picture, there is one clear bright spot and one potential hope for the future. The great success story in Wales (apart, of course, from the continuing strength of the rugby team) is the working of the Japanese companies that have been set up.

David Blake

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

The corporate sector and the Chancellor

Before Mr Healey rises to deliver his Budget speech tomorrow afternoon, at least two aspects of what he will say now seem to be clear. The first is that he will cut the overall level of taxation, though the extent to which this will depend on the outcome of the next phase of incomes policy remains to be seen.

The second is that the more he decides to give away on the income tax front, the more the PSBR ceiling will require him to claw back in indirect taxes.

What has not been speculated on so much in the run-up to this particular Budget are the less pleasant surprises the Chancellor may have up his sleeve. The one most feared last autumn was an attack on the home buyer. More recently some in the City have speculated on fresh burdens for the cooperate sector.

On the whole however this seems unlikely, at least this year. Overt attack on the corporate sector would hardly be a political starter. Covert attack could presumably take the form of either tampering with the present stock relief arrangements, which hardly seems practical until the present consultative period on the future of stock relief is over, or higher national insurance contributions. The restraint here however is that these go up anyway this spring and a second rise later in the year would seem to be courting unpopularity—though not of course impossible.

More important, there seem reasonable grounds for leaving the corporate sector in peace for at least another year and, preferably, until the inflation accounting issue is nearer a firm conclusion. Certainly, the corporate sector is in rather healthier shape than a couple of years back. But profits are still heavily depressed in relation to national income, while two major factors make for caution over the short-term.

The first is that the underlying position of the corporate sector over the past nine months or so has been confused by the volatility of other components in the economy. The size of the third quarter deficit last year came as a surprise and it looks very much as if, since midsummer, the unexpected rise in the rate of inflation as sterling remained under pressure has both increased the element of stock appreciation in profits and the strain on the industrial sector's liquidity.

The second factor concerns the increasing need to look at individual parts of the corporate sector rather than simply the corporate sector in its entirety. On this basis, it seems reasonable to assume, first, that wholly domestic companies are going to have a fairly tough year in the face of weak consumer demand—whatever the Chancellor does—and, second, that increasing attention needs to be paid to the situation of companies directly affected by the North Sea.

Brokers Phillips and Drew, for instance, recently forecast that while the overall corporate surplus should improve from £600m to £1,600m this year, this would be only after elimination of a £1,2000m deficit arising from North Sea operations.

Oils

As the North Sea flows

The news last week that North Sea oil production was on course for even the most optimistic forecasts to be fulfilled by the year end might have been expected to produce more interest in the oil sector than it did.

Whether this meek response is due to the fact that investors still prefer to travel hopefully with drilling results than to arrive at the production phase or because production levels in broad terms are already well recognized is debatable.

But if that is the case, investors are adopting a misleading approach to assessing the real worth of the North Sea. The assumptions involved in calculating the value of North Sea reserves—depletion patterns, field reserves, oil prices and discount rates used in arriving at net present worth—are so arbitrary that it takes only small changes in the variables to alter radically the whole picture.

And the signs that the market is still adopting this somewhat blinkered outlook is evidenced by the low profile response of the Lasmo oil production stocks to the North Sea euphoria, when these present investors with the purest North Sea income stream and whose underlying worth is most readily calculable. North Sea oil shares are in urgent need of some more intellectually rigorous work on assessing their future worth now that the ball game has changed and oil is actually flowing.

Shorter-term what has been unsettling the sector over the past couple of weeks have been disappointing fourth-quarter figures from the two majors, British Petroleum and Shell.

Sustained selling on a weak Wall Street, leaving BP a tenth off its high at 814p at the end of last week, has been given an extra push by United States analysts who have been busy downgrading their earlier forecasts for BP's 1977 earnings, which at 130p plus had in any case looked fanciful given the absence of any of 1976's currency gains and £70m or so worth of advance corporation tax write-back last year.

So where do oil shares go from here? If it were left to the immediate trading outlook, not all that far. Oil consumption is still hamstrung by the slow recovery in world growth while downstream activities, chemicals in particular, are being held back by the stiff competition in the market place that ICI, for instance, has been complaining about.

Yet these uncertainties have been around for the past couple of years and in the meantime North Sea excitement should be enough to give the sector a second wind later on this year. On the production front, if BP's Forties practice is anything to go by, companies will place more emphasis on cash flow than attributable earnings as the oil starts to flow in quantity.

But in any case Forties contribution could well quadruple this year from 1976s' £40m-50m which will give the market concrete evidence of the North Sea's crock of gold. Over and above that there is likely to be a steady flow of drilling news to whip up enthusiasm. The fourth well on block 11/30 where stockmarket interest is concentrated in P & O is expected to be indecisive but if further delineation drilling reveals the expected 500m barrel field that will be worth 50p to the shipping group. Triecentrol's results on block 211/18, due in the next week, could well confirm a smallish field there while on the more speculative front Oil Exploration's current heady rating could be upset if drilling on 16/17 turns out to be as disappointing as the industry expects.

Babcock/Morris

The next stage

If Herbert Morris is devoting the same effort and ingenuity to selling its products as it has to fighting off predators these past couple of years then clearly the forecast of a "very significant increase" in profits this year is going to be met. The tactics employed against Amalgamated Industrials and now against Babcock & Wilcox have a classic touch about them.

Babcock has been forced to twice raise the ante and on sheer fundamentals it looks as though it is going to have to go above the latest offer of 205p.

On historic earnings alone the offer gives an exit p/e ratio of 6 against a sector average of just under 8. The offer is slightly above net asset value as shown in the annual accounts but a revaluation, now under way, will certainly show a considerably higher figure. And the market has consistently thought that Babcock is still trying sighting shots—Morris is currently at 226p.

But the real defence point is the yield. Treasury permission has been gained for a proposed doubling of the dividend—last year it went from 6p net to 10p net—which, at 205p, puts the shares on a prospective yield of 15 per cent. The only way you can argue against a yield like that is to put up more money—250p would bring the prospective yield down to 12.3 per cent, while putting the historic exit p/e ratio up to 7.3 per cent.

Against that the anonymous potential counter-bidders appear to have departed the stage, while Babcock could let the offer lapse and sit on its near 40 per cent until a more propitious time, but that does not seem likely.

Morris is due to produce a detailed profit forecast this week, which will signal the next round of the fight and may prompt Babcock to dig deeper into its coffers.

NatWest

Strengthening the base

Moves to strengthen the capital base of International Westminster Bank were forecast a week ago by Sir John Prideaux in his annual report for the NatWest group; and the subsidiary is now to offer $75m in floating rate notes (the coupon is likely to be set at a quarter point over six months LIBOR), dated 1984, on the international market.

The reasons are plain enough, and common to most British banks. Partly because of the higher volume of business abroad, but mainly because of the collapse of the pound against other currencies, foreign currency deposit growth has far outstripped any increase in the capital base.

In the case of International Westminster, deposits rose by £1,000m to over £4,200m last year, an increase of more than 30 per cent, as against one of 16 per cent for total group deposits. The bank's experience in fact illustrates a problem which has had the pundits shaking their heads over the future of London as a financial centre, and in particular over the ability of sterling-based banks to compete for international business with others operating from a firmer capital base.

This time round, however, although the volume pressures are likely to be greater as world economic activity picks up, the impact on capital adequacy should be less pronounced—assuming that the pound holds its value against other currencies better than it has done in the last two years.

For the group as a whole the new issue obviously does something for free capital—lifting the free capital ratio, if deferred tax and the unquantified provision against advances are included, by maybe 0.3 points to just over 4 per cent. But it does not do anything for the free equity ratio, only marginally approved by last year's rights issue, since its benefits were largely offset by the £50m write-down of reserves relating to the group's property revaluation.

NatWest still has a large proportion of its capital tied up in its premises, and a large proportion of its liquidity tied up in property development. That's no problem at the moment: but if the volume of economic activity picks up any more rapidly than expected, we could see the group making more moves to strengthen its capital base.

Hugh Stephenson

Facts of life the Tories have not yet learnt

Wry humour greeted the way in which last week the *FT* index and other barometers of free enterprise fell when it looked as if there was to be a general election, which Mrs Thatcher and the Conservatives would win; and rose again steadily as it became clear that Jim had fixed it, at least for the time being.

No one for a moment should be confused into thinking that the investing public or institutions would support the Labour Party in an election when it came to one. And much of the reality is well covered by the traditional cliché about markets not liking uncertainty. But not all of it.

For there are also strong residual doubts concerning the bones of the Tory industrial policy, even in the minds of bankers, financiers and industrialists of an essentially Conservative disposition. This influential section of the normal Conservative constituency showed marked lack of enthusiasm in the early part of last week at the prospect of an election.

Such a negative reaction will presumably be of concern to the Tory leadership, for it would be helpful to have a more enthusiastic relationship by the autumn, if there is to be an election then.

Part of the problem last week lay in the fact that the political crisis caught the Tories as unprepared for a general election as everyone else. But part of it lay precisely in those areas where specific policy commitments had already been made in such a way as seemed to indicate that they would be included in the impending manifesto. This applied above all to industrial policy.

Abolition of the National Enterprise Board, slashing of the powers of the Scottish and Welsh Development Agencies, the resale of parts of British Shipbuilders and British Aerospace, the repeal of the 1975 Industry Act, the extraction of the Department of Industry (and the Bank of England?) from its role of promoting industrial improvement—all of these are designed to appeal to those who want radical old departures from a new Conservative Government. For those more concerned with making things work better, the list rings with lessons not learnt from the 1970-72 period of the last Conservative Government.

The Conservative Party under Mr Heath, it will be recalled, had convinced itself before 1970 that a rapid return to some model of capitalism from the early industrial revolution would reinvigorate the British private sector. Against this background the Industrial Reorganisation Corporation appeared to be some interventionist bogy. So it was summarily abolished. Within months the reality of the industrial situations which Governments today cannot avoid led many to regret that politically motivated move.

The forced nationalization of Rolls-Royce and the ad hoc arrangements that had to be made in that case served only to underline the mistake. By 1974, when the Conservatives introduced their own Industry Act, the most "interventionist" piece of industrial legislation until that date, the political U-turn was complete.

Thus, when Mr Heseltine says that the Industry Act must be repealed, because it was designed for political and not industrial purposes, and that the Department of Industry is at best wholly irrelevant and at worst an instrument to slow down change and impede innovation, he is saying things that make industrialists uneasy.

In shipbuilding, cane sugar refining, steel making, machine tooling, ferrous founding, telecommunicating and scores of other industries those concerned know that the future depends on a greater or lesser degree of planning and assistance involving the Government in one form or another. Equally, scores of companies with good records and prosperous pospects in as many more industries know that their future has been made more secure with Industry Act help.

The way in which Lord Ryder chooses to operate the National Enterprise Board may not please everyone. The chances of the organization being able to maintain freeboard under the dead load of British Leyland must be slim. But the realistic view must be that any government is going to be faced with situations which cannot sensibly be handled in the national interest by receivership and liquidation. At the same time many industries require an indication of government policy and earnests of government support if they themselves are to be able to plan for the next decade and more.

Unless the Conservatives come to terms with these facts of life before they win the next election, industry and the country in general will be forced to suffer the consequences while they go once again through the learning process.

Will Mr Healey deliver the goods for Neddy's industrial teams?

Many of the Neddy sector working parties taking part in the Government's industrial strategy exercise are awaiting the Chancellor's budget tomorrow with special interest. It is not generally realized that they were invited, in their latest batch of progress reports, to set out as a separate item views which they wanted taken into account in the Budget for 1977.

The response to these representatives has been a memorandum in which Mr Healey declares that the Government will be "taking full account of the views expressed by the sector working parties in reaching decisions on the Budget". That is a clear enough Treasury pledge, so the points which have been filtered from the strategy work deserve a wider circulation.

Most, though not all, of the working party reports have made some response to the Chancellor's invitation, though they vary greatly both in length and coverage, from a few very general lines to several pages of specific proposals related to particular industries. The arguments are not in all cases comprehensive, and do not claim to deal with the whole range of considerations. Not all are strictly Budget matters.

A number of recommendations recur, some of which broadly repeat the working parties' earlier observations on the Price Code and on public procurement practice. The recommendations made most frequently are those concerned with incentives and differentials, lower interest rates and the improvement of export assistance.

Many recommend changes in the structure of personal taxation, which would increase personal incentives at all levels.

There were several suggestions that there should be special tax allowances for United Kingdom personnel who spend time overseas selling our products (the Inland Revenue have just produced a consultative document with proposals on this point). There were also suggestions for relocation expenses to encourage labour mobility.

One team points out that small family firms are being seriously affected by prospective capital transfer tax. The weight of capital taxation is increasing with inflation, and it is argued that small firms may well delay investment in order to restrain the rise in the value of their assets.

Not unexpectedly, great importance is attached to stability of Government taxation policies towards industry. Some working parties have asked that the Budget should not further burden manufacturing companies by any change resulting in a reduction in the surplus available for ploughing back in new investment.

Several call for the abolition of deferred tax liability on the reserve for stock replacement. The existence of this liability may inhibit bank lending since it affects a company's gearing ratio. It can also deter further investment by shareholders since it increases the company's apparent financial obligation to outside interests.

A number ask that inflation accounting procedures should be adopted or that the methods used to calculate profits under the Price Code should be applied also to their calculation for tax purposes.

Others are suggesting a system—if one could be devised within the framework of existing trade agreements—which would link some taxation relief to export performance. A further recommendation is an adjustment of advance corporation tax requirements on the ground that ACT offset against future corporation tax liability is of little help to those companies with progressive investment records.

Individual working parties have also recommended the replacement of tax allowances by investment grants; more favourable tax treatment for research and development expenditure; and switching the bias of the company taxation system to taxing wealth at the point of distribution, not at the point of creation.

There are strong views that there should be no increase in the rate of VAT on particular products. A number emphasize that frequent changes in VAT levels have led to a greater degree of speculative behaviour by the purchasing public. There is also a feeling that there should be a review of whether all goods at present subject to the higher rate are in fact non-essential goods.

> 'Working parties are urging the replacement of tax allowances by investment grants, more favourable tax treatment for R & D and a change of bias in the taxation of wealth'

Among the specific VAT recommendations are:

- VAT on certain food products should be zero rated (confectionery and the like). These foods represent about 10 per cent of the energy value in our national diet. They are described as especially important in the diet of large families, and the removal of VAT on them would reduce the food part of the retail price index by about 0.85 per cent.
- There should be no increase in the rate on clothing, and children's clothing should be zero rated. There should be zero rating of consumer products in the household tissue sector.
- The standard VAT rate should be applied to electronics consumer goods, with a single rate of VAT on all electronic components (to reduce the administrative cost on the industry).

Any increase of VAT on expanding industries such as toys, domestic and office equipment and building and domestic hardware, it is claimed, will have a serious effect on the non-ferrous foundry industry, and could prejudice the success of the proposed industry aid scheme. Stability is sought in excise duty on beer, and a deferment of the advance paying of duty on spirits to help cash flow in the industries involved.

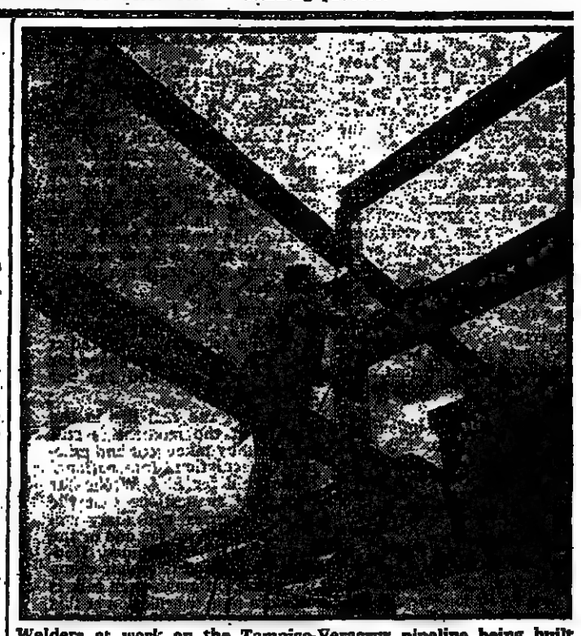
There is a plea for stability in macro-economic policy. A number of teams mention the need for stability and continuity of Government policy, particularly in efforts to control the level of demand. Several also make the point that industry should be given breathing space in which to adjust to recent legislaton.

Many believe that urgent action is needed to reduce the interest rate level charged to industrial borrowers. They argue that not only does this inhibit industrial investment, delay modernization plans, and reduce the attractiveness of holding stocks in advance of demand, but it also puts United Kingdom companies at a disadvantage in competing internationally for export contracts.

Some companies are said to be refusing orders both from home and abroad because at present interest rates it does not pay to finance them. If rates cannot be reduced, some argue for two-tier rates or some form of cheap industrial loan finance.

Pay policy should be made more flexible. In its present form, it is said to have two major inhibiting effects. First, it is held to have further eroded differentials, with implications for willingness to acquire skills or bear responsibility. Secondly, it is said to be a factor hindering progress towards greater productivity.

Maurice Corina



Welders at work on the Tampico-Veracruz pipeline being built by the state-owned oil company Pemex.

Mexico's new lease of life from oil

As the tide of socialism ebbs and flows through Latin America, Mexico looks set to enter a new era of development with the attendant problems that confront a new oil-rich nation.

Reports of huge new oil reserves are said to put Mexico on a par with Kuwait and other Middle East countries in the big oil-producing league. Since Mexico became the first Latin American country to nationalize oil in 1938, Pemex, the state oil company, has always kept a remarkably low profile.

Last month, coincidentally with the visit to the United States by the new President, Señor Jose Lopez Portillo, reports emerged of huge oil reserves in the south-eastern states of Chiapas and Tabasco.

Oil finds were first revealed in the area, and offshore from Campeche in the Gulf of Mexico, in 1972. Since the first discoveries Pemex has said very little about the extent of the hydrocarbon basin that lies underneath this area of the country.

Unofficial reports from American and Mexican sources estimated that the total reserves of oil and gas are in excess of 60,000 million barrels. After these reports Señor Jorge Diaz Serrano, director of Pemex, made a rare public statement to clarify the oil position. He said proven reserves at the end of last year stood at 11,000 million barrels.

Referring to the potential reserves he added that "it is estimated that the figure is far superior to the 60,000 million barrels" which had been reported. If these estimates turn out to be correct, Mexico could become the most important oil producer in the Americas—bigger than Alaska, or even the North Sea, by a substantial margin. By comparison, the United States, which is Mexico's major customer for oil, has only 35,000 million barrels of oil/gas, and Venezuela, Latin America's biggest producer, has 18,000 million barrels of proven reserves.

Pemex is now embarking on a substantial oil development programme, and an American company is to make an independent assessment of proven reserves; so far only five out of 180 known oil deposits have been exploited.

This year the surplus of refined and crude products is expected to reach 54 million barrels and the daily output is forecast to be one million barrels by 1983. More than 300,000m pesos are to be spent on doubling the country's refining capacity to 1.7 million barrels a day by 1982.

A major extension of the petrochemical industry will also take place; with investments of 56,000m pesos on the cards, the number of petrochemical plants will be increased from 55 to 115. The annual value of exports from petrochemicals will reach 31,000m pesos (nearly £820m) to which must be added 105,000m pesos from refined and crude products by 1982.

The country's debts are still huge, at about $25,000m, with another $3,000m of borrowing expected this year. The cost of servicing this debt is something like $4,000m a year, which would be a heavy drain even for a country which found it easy to run a trade surplus, something which Mexico has found hard to do.

Against this background, the improvement which oil promises to the balance of payments could be of vital importance. Certainly, the financial demands on the country will give exploration for oil a new urgency.

Although it will be some time before the precise extent of the oil reserves are known, there seems to be no question that substantial amounts do exist. Mexico has not fallen into the Brazilian trap of 1974 when substantial claims about offshore prospects were being made in an attempt to gain international confidence in the economy.

The problem that now arises in Mexico is the ability to expand its oil industry fast enough to obtain the maximum benefit from the sales of refined and processed oil-based products and whether it will join Opec. If Mexico joins Opec, it would lose the benefits of the 1974 United States Trade Act; furthermore, membership of Opec would also bring with it the attendant political problems of international oil politics which could cause instability internally and in foreign relations.

Mexico, however, is a fortunate country. The latest reports on oil come hard on the encouraging news that the country is now the world's major producer of silver and is also rapidly expanding its phosphate industry.

With the revival, albeit somewhat slowly, of the American tourist trade after ex-President Echeverhia anti-Jewish gaffe some two years ago, President Portillo has the basic ingredients for sound economic planning.

What is particularly encouraging is the development of tourism which accounts for about one third of foreign earnings. Tourism is expected to have brought about $800m last year.

During the last 15 years tourism has expanded at an average rate of 10.9 per cent, and a target of 5.5 million tourists a year has been set for 1982.

Fonatur, one of the government tourist funding agencies, has alone invested $144m in capital investments. This has gone mainly into two large tourist complexes. One is at Ixtapa, on the Pacific coast and the other is the immensely impressive tourist city at Cancun on the Caribbean coast where 17 hotels, a golf course, and a town of 22,000 inhabitants have been carved out of the jungle.

From a handful of campers who visited the resort area when first trees were cleared five years ago the number of visitors to Cancun (literally "pot of gold" in the original Mayan Indian language) swelled steadily to 100,000 last year. The target for next year is 450,000.

The immediate benefits for tourists from the devaluation were comparatively shortlived as consequential inflation—25 per cent—made up the gap, but Mexico is still cheap compared with other big tourist countries.

The growth of tourism, which is estimated to need a labour pool of some 27 million workers for the 1982 target, will, it is hoped, help alleviate the enormous unemployment problem and thus bring more people into the moneyed economy, correcting one of the much criticized features of Mexican life.

With sunshine, silver, phosphates, and now possibly huge oil surpluses, Mexico looks like soon becoming the pacesetter for Latin America.

Michael Frenchman

Business Diary in Europe: Spanish statistical war

The director of Spain's national statistical institute, Ricardo Torrón Durán, has quit in a huff over "cooked" cost of living figures.

Not only that—many of the statisticians at the institute have backed him up and are threatening "public action", presumably a strike, unless the government puts matters right. They maintain that the public has a right to accurate information, a declaration which in General Franco's day would surely have been considered subversive.

The dispute hinges on the formula used for determining the cost of living. At present the institute is still using a table based on Spanish family budgets of 1964 even though a much more recent table, taking into account social changes and changes in consumer habits is available.

In fact, the government authorized the institute to work out the cost of living according to the new, more accurate, table last February, but then ordered a return to the outdated one when it became obvious that the new table reflected a far higher percentage increase in the cost of living.

According to official figures, the cost of living rose by about 17 per cent last year, but estimates based on the new table could suggest a rise of well over 20 per cent.

After repeated attempts to defend the new table, Torrón Durán presented his "irrevocable" decision to resign. It was accepted by the government, according to a notice published on Friday, at last Thursday's cabinet meeting. He had been chief of the institute for a year.

In a letter to Alfonso Osorio, the vice-premier for economic affairs, many statisticians in his department not only expressed strong objections to the continued used of the outdated table, but also claimed that the government had attempted to impose other methods of calculating the cost of living which lacked "sufficient technical guarantees" of accuracy.

They expressed concern that the government would try to prohibit the publication of cost-of-living figures based on the more recent analysis of consumer habits and argued that their professional reputations and the credibility of the official statistical service was at stake.

Bank account

Helmut Haeusgen caused some surprise among his audience, the entire German banking corps in the City of London,

EEC bankers' Helmut Haeusgen in London: spend, spend, spend.

when he declared at the weekend that he was not enjoying his spell as president of the EEC bankers' federation.

The work did not give him "any feeling of success", he said at a meeting in London of the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce. Bankers defended national positions in the federation just as doggedly as any finance or agriculture minister in committee at Brussels.

A further, not entirely congenial, task awaited Haeusgen, a director of the Frankfurt-based Dresdner Bank, when he came to the nub of his speech, entitled "Germany's economic development looked at from an international angle".

His after-lunch tour-d'horizon, which took over an hour, was a reply to the proposition that West Germany was not doing enough to fuel Western economic recovery. His rebuttal was as impressive as it was thorough, but in order to show how much his countrymen had done it was necessary to detail measures of which he obviously disapproved.

In fiscal policy, for instance, he pointed out that the public sector borrowing requirement last year amounted to 5 per cent of gross national product, higher than in Japan, the United States or France, and lower among industrialized nations only than the United Kingdom (6 per cent).

"This year", he said, "Germany will again be trying to spend itself out of trouble at a faster rate than, say, the United States, even allowing for the new Carter administration's proposed additional public expenditure programme."

Indeed, he said, the German government had gone as far down that line as the constitution permitted.

He went on to say that demands for social welfare benefits had lost all touch with reality and it was necessary for these to be "screwed back" to a more reasonable level.

In Britain, he said, thanks to North Sea oil, "things aren't looking too bad". He was heard with particular interest by Günther Steffens, the chairman of the chamber, who is from the London operation of Dresdner.

In good books

It is not often that one hears a good word of a publisher, but there was plenty in London last week from James Mitchell, who just happens to be a publisher himself.

Mitchell a director of publishers Mitchell Beazley and general editor of the new *Joy of Knowledge* encyclopedia, was welcoming a whole convention of overseas publishers in London for the publication day in Britain of the first two of the 10 volumes.

He said that the £3.5m needed to launch the venture was raised not "from some friendly bank", but from the companies who plan to publish the books in 13 languages in 11 other countries around the world.

The publishers include Librairie Larousse (France), Deutsche Bücherbund (West Germany), Fratelli Fabbri (Italy) VNU (Holland), Salvat (Spain) and Werner Soderstrom (Finland).

Had it not been for their help, Mitchell said, the whole set would have cost about five times the present £112.50.

Etienne Gillon, president of Larousse, said that his company was putting its effort into translation rather than adaptation. But an American, Bob Bernstein of Random House, said that even though we, and they, are presumed to speak the same language, about $600,000 would have to be spent before the *Joy of Knowledge* emerged as the Random House encyclopedia.

Gillon said that for comprehensiveness and imaginative use of illustration the British venture had only one parallel, the Encyclopedie of Diderot. This, as the new work itself describes in the section on reference books and encyclopedias, appeared between 1751 and 1756

Gillon did not refer to another and less happy precedent which is mentioned in the same section. This is the *Lexicon* of Zelder (or Zedler—the Mitchell Beazley book spells it two ways on one page), an 18th century Leipzig bookseller.

"His work", the section notes, "prompted rival ones which later put him out of business".

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Viewing the Budget and bids in light of a post-recovery market

The Budget weighs heavily on short-term share recommendation and, beyond that, analysts must cope with the prolonged market rise which has lifted many erstwhile "bombed-out" or undervalued sectors.

Hoare Govett, for instance, in looking at the specialist mail order companies has had to take the view, plausible though it is, that the Chancellor will help second-half retail spending this year. Hoare's analyst, Mr J. E. R. Bax, has also had to take into account the sector's strength against the FTA All-Share Index over the past three months whereas for most of last year mail order was mostly under-rated.

But for all that, a strong case is made for purchases in either Freemans (SW9), Grattan Warehouses or Empire Stores. The results from all three are imminent, but Mr Bax is looking for an overall 11 per cent profit advance in 1976-77, 20 per cent in the current year and an even stronger advance in the year after that.

Price stability over the life of a six-month catalogue is likely to increase, sales per customer should improve without expensive agent recruitment and the specialist mail order firms are already benefiting from parallel postal systems which are reducing their reliance on the Post Office.

Property is another sector which comes into the bracket of recent sharp improvement after suffering so long as everybody's whipping boy.

The property sub-index has climbed from 106 to 178 since mid-November last and, in its sector survey, J. Sebag warns that a reaction can be expected before the continuing bullish trends for property shares are generally realized.

Prime yields are now close to 6 per cent and Sebag's analyst, Mr Roger Baden-Powell, believes they will decline further to 5½ per cent by the end of the year.

In his view, however, this fall is already discounted by share prices in that prospective discounts to net asset values calculated on the basis of a 5) per cent yield structure leave the major "safe stocks"—particularly Land Securities, Haslemere, Great Portland and Stock Conversion—no more than fairly valued.

The determining factor, however, is the behaviour of rents and the broker estimates that London commercial rents are on a rising trend.

Whether or not property ever truly regains lost status, one of the chief props for Grieveson, Grant's recommendation of Trafalgar House is that it has been transformed from a purely property company into a major shipping, construction and property group.

Brokers' views

The full benefits of Trafalgar's post-1971 investment programme, say Grieveson's commentators, Mr Rod Colwell and Mr Michael Unsworth, have yet to accrue but prospects over the next five years are exciting. The historic p/e ratio and yield of around 10 and 6 respectively are about in line with the market, the brokers observe, but given the group's above average prospects, the shares are undervalued.

Taking out capitalized interest and the surplus on land and ship sales, they predict earnings of 16.7p per share for the current year and 21p per share in 1978.

Much of the real life in the market at the moment is still provided by takeovers and takeover speculation. International Stores' bid for F. J. Wallis has prompted suggestions that the BAT Industries' subsidiary will be tempted to go for one of the bigger retailing combines. Hedderwick Stirling Grumbar calculates that, although such talk is no more than speculation at this stage, International and Wallis hold no more than an aggregate 5 per cent of the United Kingdom market so a further acquisition would not be unacceptable to the Monopolies Commission.

Strong bets are also being placed that the engineering pitch will see the most bid activity. Many medium-size engineers have been tipped as takeover stocks, Amalgamated Power Engineering among them.

Brokers Heseltine Moss say that APE is about to undergo a major surge in earnings, transformed margins and a strong profits outlook.

Mouth-watering stuff which the broker spices further with its opinion that the company could be vulnerable to a takeover from one of its competitors which will soon be benefiting from nationalization compensation and keen to reinvest in the profitable areas of their operations.

Pre-tax profits for 1976, Heseltine believes, will have risen by 84 per cent, fuelled by the growing demand for diesel engines, and the outlook for the current year is of the order of 35 per cent giving the shares a prospective p/e ratio of less than 4. Moreover, the market capitalization is way under net worth.

One bid still very much in the balance is the Guest Keen and Nettlefolds acquisition of Sachs, the West German vehicle components manufacturer. The Birmingham broking firm of Smith Keen Cutler has been watching the situation closely and in a follow-up to a major review last month, considers the announcement that the West German Cartel office is to appeal to the Supreme Court against the judgment of the Appeal Court which would have allowed GKN to buy a further 50 per cent.

SKC expects a decision later this year, though probably not before the fourth quarter. So taking in Sachs only as a 25 per cent-owned associate, the broker predicts pre-tax profits of £112m for 1976 rising to £135m this year after adding back special depreciation. Earnings of 36.1p and 43.3p per share respectively are anticipated.

Ray Maughan

Heavy line-up includes 'Pru,' Legal & General 'Tubes,' and Cadbury

What with pre-Budget guessing and post-mortems on its outcome the week will provide the stock market with plenty of cues, judging by the large number of major companies announcing their results.

Wednesday and Thursday is spiced with such leaders as "Tubes", House of Fraser, Peachey, and the "Pru" and Legal & General together. Finals are also projected from Cadbury-Schweppes, Bowater, BBA, Bridon, APV, International Combustion and Royal Worcester.

Outstanding interims cover Barratt Developments, Paterson-Zochonis, London Brick, and Lucas. Among other leading finals are Reckitt, Amalgamated Metal, and Savoy Hotel. Details:

TODAY. Interims—Barratt Developments GT Asia (Sterling) Fund, Moran Tea, Mucklow (A. and J.), and Paterson Zochonis. Finals—Black and Edgington, Brent Chemicals, Clayton Dewandre, Dufay Bitumastic, J. Fisher and Freemans (London SW9), C. H. Johnson, Ofrex, Pifco, Quick (H. and J.), Reckitt and Colman, Willis Faber, Wolstenholme Bronze Powders, and Wood (Arthur) (Longport).

TOMORROW. Interims—AB Electronic, Lister and Co, and Scottish Met Props. Finals—Amal Metal, American Tst, Bruntons (Musselburgh), Bulgin (A. F.), Law Land, Lever, Savoy Hotel, and Warne Wright.

WEDNESDAY. Interims—Bridport Gundry, Burns-Anderson, Crowther (J. E.) and Dawnay Day. Finals—Armour Tst, Biddle Hldgs, British Aluminium, Equity and Law Life, Grampian Hldgs, House of Fraser, Thos Jourdan, Legal and General Assurance, Peachey Property, Prudential Assurance, Raleigh Inds, Slough Estates, Solicitors' Law Stationery.

Results this week

Tilbury Contracting, Tube Inv, and Zenith Carburetter.

THURSDAY. Interims—London Brick, Lucas Inds, Rivlin (J. D. and S.), and Sirdar. Finals—Appleyard, APV Hldgs, Ash and Lacy, Aurora Hldgs, BBA Group, Bifurcated Eng, Bowater, Bridon, Brown and Jackson, Cadbury-Schweppes, Clay (Richard), Cliffords Dairies, Fothergill and Harvey, Hyman (L. and J.), Inter Combustion, Lane (Percy), Liden, Magnolia (Mouldings), Matthews (B.), Mixconcrete, Swedish Match, Royal Worcester, and Triplevest.

FRIDAY. Interims—Renong Tin, and Wombwell Foundry. Finals—Early (Charles) and Marriott, F. Miller (Textiles), and Scottish Television.

BCA extends Nationwide terms as acceptances withdrawn

Two new twists emerged over the weekend in British Car Auction's hotly contested bid for Nationwide Leisure.

First it was learned that a group of Nationwide shareholders, representing more than 5 per cent of the shares, had withdrawn their conditional acceptances of the offer. But this was countered by BCA with a second extension of the terms from last Friday to April 10.

As things stand, BCA's present holding of Nationwide shares has been reduced from 47.6 per cent to 42.7 per cent by the withdrawals, a figure which includes more than 1.3m shares acquired, or agreed to acquire, during the original period of the offer.

Actual acceptances amount to 1.35m shares, representing 21.5 per cent of the equity. A group of Nationwide shareholders comprising Messrs Parks, Esley and Brownie have bought for 10p cash a share a total of 18,757 shares since March 16.

J James buy plastics

In a further expansion of the John James Group's industrial division, Mendle Brothers has been bought for £900,000 cash. The value of the assets acquired is marginally above the purchase price. Mendle, a private company based in South Wales, are manufacturers of plastic products. Its pre-tax profits for 1975 were £196,000 and, for the ten months to October 31, 1976, were £210,000.

Eagle Star-Europ

Eagle Star Insurance has acquired a 20 per cent interest in the French-owned Europ Assistance, mainly through the subscription of additional capital. The paid-up capital of Europ Assistance has been increased to £300,000. A representative of Eagle Star will join the board.

Europ Assistance provides motoring and personal emergency services to travellers and holidaymakers.

This development, at a time when there is a growing demand by the travelling public for the services offered by Europ Assistance, is seen as one which will bring considerable benefit to both concerns.

Elect Machine in the red

Because of a reorganization of its metal pressing division Electronic Machine went into the red to the tune of £162,000 before tax in the six months to October 31. The comparable profit was £31,000.

But this division is showing an increasingly profitable trend and current group turnover is 50 per cent up on last year. Order books are now more than £750,000.

IMI buys French valve maker

Imperial Metal Industries has bought a controlling interest in the French industrial valve group Mapegaz, writes Clifford Webb.

It is the second French valve maker acquired by IMI in an attempt to get a bigger share of the oil and petro-chemicals industry's needs for high-technology valves. IMI, controlled by ICI, has a big stake in valve making through Sir W. H. Bailey with factories in Manchester and Beccles, Mecafrance, France, with a German subsidiary and now Mapegaz.

Contract settlement strengthens Vosper

Shipbuilder and engineer Vosper Thornycroft has upgraded its profit for 1975-76. In February it reported pre-tax profit of £6.5m, and a retained of £2.84m.

Since the preliminary statement terms of settlement have been agreed on some major contracts. This enables the board to take a "less conservative" view of the net realizable value of the work-in-progress on those contracts at October 31 than was reflected in the initial statement.

The effect is to increase pre-tax profit by £750,000 to £6.26m against £4.03m, and the retained by £360,000 to £3.2m. Turnover is up from £97.7m to £98.5m, against £82m.

Chas Clifford tumble

Non-ferrous metal makers Charles Clifford Industries took a tumble in 1976 though the wrought metals division turned round from loss. On sales of £8.57m compared with £8.85m, pre-tax profit dived from £235,000 to £36,000. It also passes a final dividend, making the total payment down from 7.68p gross to 3.08p.

Difficulties were exacerbated in the second half, says Mr Charles Cooper, chairman, by the increased cost of borrowing. He looks to a better year in 1977.

Welsh loan to Mole

With its recovery continuing apace, M. Mole & Son is raising extra working capital and finance for expansion with the Welsh Development Agency under a conditional agreement, the Agency is investing in £100,000 of convertible loan stock and offering a £150,000 medium-term loan.

Meanwhile, pre-tax profits of this maker of "Mole" wrenches, trailers and television equipment have leapt from £23,000 to £62,000 out of earnings of 2.68p (1p) for 1976. The dividend is raised from 0.38p to 0.56p gross.

Sheffield Brick spurns Raine Eng terms

Sheffield Brick is advising shareholders to reject an offer worth 86p a share from Raine Engineering, which had a pre-offer holding of more than 19 per cent.

Mr Charles Buck, Sheffield Brick chairman, points out that the company's net assets are worth 129p a share and he asks shareholders not to allow Raine to get them "on the cheap".

He adds that the bid was made without prior notice and that "no real attempt was made to discuss it with us". Mr Buck finds this "surprising", particularly as Mr M. Taylor, Raine's chairman, also sits on the Sheffield Brick board.

The chairman makes the additional points that Raine has not made a profits forecast to June this year and has given no indication of where its profits came from in the first six months. "Your directors and, indeed, the stock market cannot fully evaluate them", he says.

On borrowings Mr Buck says Raine's are "uncomfortably high and short term". The financial strains of Raine's attempt to bolster profits by acquisition on property development are amply shown in their offer document, he adds.

The document showed that bank borrowings were about £2.4m and had risen very sharply since 1975. "These would appear to amount to some 75 per cent of shareholders' funds at December 31, 1976.

Name change and profit at British Debt

British Debt Services, the credit service organization, has been renamed Credit Data and after three years of losses it is now in the black.

Mr Paul Brooks, chairman, told an extraordinary meeting held to approve the change of name that there was a profit in the first six months of the current year.

He also felt that the change would benefit the marketing activities of the company, since it reflected both the new management and the increased range of services now being offered to the credit industries.

In the year to June last there was an attributable loss of £1.1m. There has been no dividend since the interim payment of 1974.

Briefly

GOODMAN BROTHERS
Interim pre-tax £234,000 (£230,000). Turnover £4.7m against £4m.

INT WESTMINSTER BANK
Under guarantee of National Westminster, group to offer $75m of floating rate capital notes 1984. Final terms will be fixed on April 5.

WAGONS-LITS
Brussels: Net profit for 1976 more than doubled from 20.63m francs to 47.81m francs (about £758,000). Net dividend, on all shares, 27 francs, compared with 20 francs on ordinary and 25 on preference shares for previous year.—Reuter.

BUCKNALL-BREMAR
Bremar Hldgs' offer for Bucknall Trust is now clos edwith Bremar holdin gover 93 per cent. Listing for Bucknall temporarily suspended.

DINARS FOR PHILIPPINES
The Philippines will offer 5m Kuwaiti dinars (about £10m) in public bonds in London next month.

SALVADOR RAILWAY
At EGM, resolution passed putting co into liquidation. Available cash (subject to unforeseen claims) estimated at £118,000.

WESTINGHOUSE BRAKE
Westinghouse Brake & Signal announces that Mr R. P. Coke for personal reasons has resigned from the board and from the boards of its Australian group of which he was executive chairman.

RENOLD
Renold and S.A. Adaro of Spain have agreed in principle to merge their operations in Spain, subject to authorities' permission.

RUO ESTATES HOLDING
Turnover for year to June 30 up from £1.1m to £1.36m and pre-tax profits from £398,000 to £470,000. Total gross payment raised from 6.49p to 7.14p.

LEWA SISAL SUSPENSION
Listing for Lewa Sisal and General Investments' 10 per cent participating preferred stock and deferred stock has been suspended at company's request.

Local Government, Public & Educational Appointments

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Euromarkets

Optimism seems to be spreading through the Eurobond market despite a continuing build-up in the calendar of scheduled offerings, *writes AP-Dow Jones.*

Seven Eurodollar issues totalling $395m were scheduled as of last Friday and this amount did not include a $100m 5.5-year note placement during the week of the European Economic Community (EEC).

Moreover, at least two other issues totalling another $130m were expected to be added to the calendar by Monday.

While two Euromark issues totalling the equivalent of about $125m were also scheduled, a DM250m issue for Sweden, equivalent to about $104m, was expected to be added to the calendar next week. Sweden, incidentally, is also expected to float a Eurodollar bond issue before long.

To a certain extent, underwriters ascribed the sudden build-up in the calendar to the need to get issues into the market before the Easter holiday in two weeks time. However, the increased activity in the Eurobond market also reflected optimism that interest rates may stay level.

Indeed, one dealer commented that the possibility of a recession was encouraging portfolio managers to sell holdings in shares and transfer the proceeds into the bond market.

For some weeks, underwriters have refrained from floating issues for Canadian entities because of uncertainty caused by downward gyrations of the Canadian dollar as well as the political issue of Quebec separatism. However, conditions seem to have calmed down on both the exchange-rate and political fronts and, accordingly, the market for new Canadian issues is about to be reopened.

A syndicate headed by Union Bank of Switzerland (Securities) has scheduled a $C75m 10-year issue of Bell Canada with an indicated coupon of 8 per cent annually. The terms seem to be reasonably generous. Bell Canada has an outstanding $C60m, 8.75 per cent issue with about nine years left until maturity.

This issue was quoted on Friday at 105.25 bid to yield 7.91 per cent. So there was a possibility of switching out of the old issue into the new one without loss of yield and at the same time lock in a capital gain. However, a rival issue was put into the market on Friday by a syndicate led by Deutsche Bank. This was a $100m 10-year issue of Ontario Hydro also bearing 8 per cent.

Eurobond prices (yields and premiums)

	Latest price	Prev week
Alb & Wilson 7½ Deb '85-90	63½	60½
All Brit Bldgs 8½ Ln '83-7	60½	59
A[illegible] Brew 6½ Deb '87	67½*	[illegible]
Do 7½ Ln '93-98	67½*	[illegible]
A[illegible] Bis 7½ Deb '90-95	60	58
All Foods 5½ Ln '87-2002	19*	19*
A[illegible] Elec 6 Deb '78-	75½*	71½*
Do 6½ Deb '86-91	60½	59½
A[illegible] Cement 7 Deb '83-5	63	63½
Do 9 Deb '92-97	69½	67½
B[illegible] 7½ Deb '90-95	61½	61½
B[illegible] Int 6½ Deb '81-	65	66
Do 9 Tonnant '88	79½	77
Bank of Ireland 7 Ln '91	64*	63½*
Barclays Bk 8½ '86-93	68½	66
Barclays Int 7½ Ln '86-91	60	60
B[illegible] 3½ Ln '87-	55*	55*
Do 7½ Ln '92-97	87½	87½
Do 8½ Deb '87-92	60½*	61½*
B[illegible] 6½ Ln '78-83	71	70½
Do 8½ Ln '84-94	62½	59½*
B[illegible] 10½ Deb '94-99	72½	72½
B[illegible] Qual 7½ Ln '87-	55½*	53½*
Boots 6 Ln '78-83	69½	70½*
Do 7½ '88-93	60*	60*
Bridon 8 Deb '88-93	67	67
Brit Am Tob 7 Ln '82-87	75	75
Brit Leyland 6 '98-2003	39	38½
Do 7½ Ln '87-92	37	33½
Do 8 Ln '98-2003	30½	32
Brit Petrol 8 Deb '7[illegible]-78	77½	73½
Brit Shoe 7 '80-82	81	81½
Brooke Bond 6½ Ln '99-04	37	35½
Do 7 2003-08	52½	50½
Burmah Oil 6½ Ln '76-81	63½	66½
Do 8½ Ln '91-96	51½	51
Do 7½ Ln '81-86	52½	52½
B[illegible] Gp 9½ Ln '98-2003	64*	64*
Cadbury-Schweppes 8½ Ln '94-2004	67½*	69½*
Do 9 '88-93	71	67½
Coats Patons 4½ Ln 2002-07	35½	30
Do 7½ '90-95	56½	56½
Courage 6½ Ln 2004-09	47	45
Do 8 2nd Deb '89-94	64½	64½
Courtaulds 6½ Ln '94-96	49½*	46½*
Do 7 '82-87	67½*	68½
Do 7½ Deb '89-94	63*	67½*
Debenhams 6½ 2nd Deb	60½*	60½*
Do 6½ Ln '86-91	51½*	51½*
Do 7½ Ln 2002-07	51½	48½
Distillers 7½ Ln '88-93	61½	59½
Dunlop 6½ 2nd Deb '85-90	52½*	58½*
EMI 7 Ln '87-92	55½	55
English Elec 6 Deb '80-85	71	69½
Fiso 6 Deb '77-80	82½	80½
Fisons 6½ 2nd Deb '84-89	61½	60½
Gallaher 6 Ln '83-85	65	61
Gen Acc 7½ '92-97	56	56
GEC 7½ '87-92	64½	66*
Do 7½ '88-93	61½*	60½
Glaxo 7½ '85-95	289p*	27½p*
Glynwed 10½ Ln '84-99	75*	75
GUS 6½ Ln	36½	34½
Do 7½ Ln '93-98	61*	61
Do 8½ Ln '93-98	61*	60
Hawker Sid 7½ Deb '87-92	64½	61½
ICI 5½ Ln '94-2004	42½	41½
Do 7½ Ln '86-91	64½	61½
Do 8 '92-95	65½	61½
Imperial Gp 4 Ln '75-80	85	80½
Do 7½ 2004-09	[illegible]	64½
Do 10½ Ln '90-95	80	79
Initial Services 8 Ln '88-93	61½*	58½*
Int Stores 7½ Ln 2003-08	56*	53½*
Laporte 10½ Deb '94-99	70*	70*
Land Secs 8½ 1993-97	60½*	60½*
Lewis's Inv Tst 6½ 2nd '85-90	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lucas Ind 7½ '83-88	61½	61½
MEPC 8 Ln 2000-05	55*	50½*
Metal Box 10½ Ln '92-97	77*	73½*
Midland Bank 10½ Ln '93-98	83½	81
Nat West Bank 9 Ln 1993	74½	73
Ranks Hovis 6½ Ln '76-81	77*	74*
Do 6½ Ln '85-88	57*	50½*
Reckitt & Col 6½ Deb '85-90	61½	61½
Reed Int 7½ Deb '90-95	60½	60½
Renold 7½ Ln '92-97	50½	56½
Reyrolle Parsons 7½ Ln '88-93	60½*	55½*
Rugby Port Cem 6 '93-98	44½	45
Do 7½ Ln '93-98	55½	55
Sainsbury (J.) 7½ Deb '87-92	57	57
Scot Newcastle 8½ Deb	70½*	70½*
Do 7½ Deb '89-94	60½*	59½*
Slater Walker 9 Loan '91-96	42	43½
Slough Est 7½ Deb '85-90	61½	61½
Smith (W. H.) 8½ Ln	55½	55½
Spillers 7 Deb '78-83	77½	73½
Do 7½ Deb '84-89	64½	63½
Tate & Lyle 7½ Deb '89-94	56½*	56½*
Thomson Org 5 Deb '84-89	54½	52½
Do 7½ Ln '87-92	59	56
Tilling (T.) 8½ Ln '89-94	66	64½
Tootal 4½ Perp Deb	33	32
Do 6½ '85-90	55½	55½
Truman Ltd 7½ Deb '88-93	67½*	67½*
Do 10½ Deb '91-96	73½*	73½*
Tube Invest 9 Ln '89-94	63½	62½
Turner & Newall 8 Ln '87-92	64	[illegible]
UDS 7½ Deb '85-90	63½*	60½*
Do 10½ Deb '89-94	77½*	77½
Unigate 6½ Ln '91-96	50½*	49½*
Do 7½ Deb '86-91	66	61½
Unilever 6½ Deb '85-88	65½	64*
Watney 7½ Ln '94-99	52½	49
Do 8 Ln '90-95	60½	59½
Whitbread 7½ Ln '95-99	55½	52½
Do 7½ Ln '96-2000	55½	55½
$ CONVERTIBLES		
Adwest 8 '89-94	95½	94½
AB Foods 7½ '94-2004	158	158
BPB 7½ '89-94	97½*	97½*
Bowring, C. T. 5 1981	90	90
Brit Petrol 6 '76-80	85	83
Brittains 10½ '91-96	65	65
Grand Met 10 '91-96	91½	93½
Guest Keen 6½ 1985	90½	90*
Hepworth Ceram 7½ '77	133	120
Ind and Gen 4½ '94-99	84*	85*
Lucas Ind 6½ 1980	102	105
MEPC 5 '89-94	78	78*
Midland Bank 7½ '83-93	74½	77
Ready Mixed 8½ 1978	93½*	94½
Romney Tst 4½ '73-98	75	75
Stock Conv 6½ 1984	184*	181*
Temple Bar 5½ '85-90	82	81
Trust Hse For 8½ '82	131	133

Weekly list of fixed interest stocks

$ STRAIGHTS	Offer Price	Rdptn Yld
Alcan 9½ 1989	106¼	8.69
Amoco 8½ 1980	104½	7.01
Amoco 8½ 1988	104½	7.82
Aquitaine 10 1985	105	9.27
ARDB 8½ 1980	105½	7.41
Bank of Tokyo 8½ 1981	103½	7.80
Barclays 9½ 1982	105½	8.06
Bell Canada 8½ 1986	106½	7.88
BFCE 8½ 1983	103	8.21
British Gas 9 1981	105½	8.06
British Steel 8 1987	98½	8.34
Cadbury Schweppes 7½ 1990	89½	9.36
CECA 9½ 1986	105½	8.87
CFP 9 1982	105½	7.84
Charbonnage de France 8½ 1981	103	8.01
Cons Foods 7½ 1991	98	7.80
Curacao 8½ 1988	100½	8.63
Curacao 10½ 1981	106½	8.89
Denmark Mge 9 1983	103½	8.36
DSM 9½ 1980	106½	7.41
Edinburgh 9 1981	105	8.28
EEC 7½ 1979	101½	7.72
EEC 8½ 1982	102½	7.76
EIB 9 1980	105½	7.42
EIB 9½ 1986	105½	8.51

	Offer price	Redptn yield
Escom FRN 82	97	9.41
Escom 10½ 1983	101½	9.93
Esso 8 Mar 1986	104	7.44
GATX 8½ 1987	103	7.90
Gould 9½ 1983	107	8.43
Guardian Royal 8 1987	96½	8.84
Gulf & Western 9½ 1980	105½	7.94
Gulf & Western 9½ 1982	104½	8.03
Massey 9½ 1982	106½	8.30
Massey 9½ 1991	104½	8.71
Montreal 9½ 1983	104½	8.41
Montreal 9½ 1981	106½	8.29
National Coal Board 8½ 1988	98½	8.94
National Westminster 9 1986	103	8.60
Newfoundland & Labrador 9½ 1983	105½	8.93
New Zealand 9 1980	105½	7.39
New Zealand 9½ 1982	105	8.05
New Zealand 8½ 1983	104½	7.78
Nippon Fudosan 8 1981	101	7.87
Nippon Steel 9½ 1980	106	6.07
Norsk Hydro 9½ 1986	106½	8.53
Norsk Hydro 9½ 1988	108	8.46
Norpipe 9½ 1986	104½	8.56
Occidental 9½ 1981	106½	8.03
Occidental 9½ 1983	106½	8.56
Pakhoed 9 1982	103½	8.20
Quebec Prov 8½ 1981	102½	8.00
Quebec Prov 9 1983	103½	8.29
Quebec Prov 9 1984	103	8.64
Ralston 7½ 1987	99½	7.60
Reading & Bates 9½ 1981	104½	8.30
Sandvik 9½ 1986	104	8.93
Scanraff 7½ 1990	97	7.92
Scanraff 8½ 1988	102½	8.40
Seagrams 9 1983	103	8.03
Skandanviska 10½ 1981	107	8.54
Stalsforetag 9½ 1980	105	7.75
Sunstrand 9½ 1983	106½	8.47
Svenska 9½ 1986	105½	8.42
Toyo Menka 9½ 1981	104½	8.18
DM BONDS		
CFP 8½ 1985	105	7.78
Denmark 9½ 1989	109½	8.19
ICI 8½ 1982	106½	7.30
Mexico 9 1982	104½	8.07
National Westminster 8 1988	103½	7.60
Sumitomo Metal Inds 8½ 1982	105½	7.34
Sun Int Fin 7½ 1984	104½	7.00
$ CONVERTIBLES	**Offer price**	**Conv prem**
American Express 4½ 1987	87½	54.81
Beatrice Foods 4½ 1992	99	10.31
Beatrice Foods 4½ 1993	110	-0.31dis
Beatrice Foods 6½ 1991	114½	4.37
Borden 5 1992	106	0.99
Borden 6½ 1991	116	-0.95
Broadway Hale 4½ 1987	79	66.00
Carnation 4 1987	86½	23.33
Chevron 5 1992	124½	-0.66dis
Credit Suisse 4½ 1991	103	9.62
Cummins 6½ 1986	105½	18.98
Dart 4½ 1987	83½	57.45
Eastman Kodak 4½ 1988	99	54.40
Economic Labs 4½ 1987	82	47.42
Federated Dept Stores 4½ 1985	103½	0.96
Ford 5 1988	93	13.67
Ford 6 1986	103½	13.70
Gillette 4½ 1987	80½	100.06
Gould 5 1987	123	-0.90dis
General Electric 4½ 1987	87	36.50
Gulf and Western 5 1988	90	18.42
Harris 5 1992	114½	-0.28dis
Honeywell 6 1986	91½	115.05
ITT 4½ 1987	85	45.62
J. Ray McDermott 4½ 1987	148	-1.02dis
J. P. Morgan 4½ 1987	103½	6.58
Nabisco 5½ 1988	100	4.70
Owens Illinois 4½ 1987	124	0.34
J. C. Penney 4½ 1987	83	71.66
Raymond 8½ 1983	119	1.29
Revlon 4½ 1987	107½	7.51
Sperry Rand 4½ 1988	93	22.27
Squibb 4½ 1987	82	67.17
Texaco 4½ 1988	81½	54.42
Union Bank of Switzerland 5 1981	108	2.79
Union Carbide 4½ 1982	108	1.39
Warner Lambert 4½ 1987	87½	48.95
Xerox Corp 5 1988	81	147.31

DM=Deutschmark issue.
Source: Kidder, Peabody Securities, London.

Bank Base Rates

Barclays Bank	10½%
Consoldtd Credits	11½%
First London Secs	11½%
C. Hoare & Co	*10½%
Lloyds Bank	10½%
Midland Bank	10½%
Nat Westminster	10½%
Rossminster Acc's	11½%
Shenley Trust	14%
Williams & Glyn's	10½%

* 7-day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under, 6½%, up to £25,000, 7¼%, over £25,000, 7¾%.

More share prices

The following will be added to the London and Regional Share Price List tomorrow and will be published daily in Business News:

Commercial and Industrial
More O'Ferral

M. J. H. NIGHTINGALE & CO. LIMITED
62-63 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8HP. Tel: 01-638 8651

Capitalisation £000's	Company	Price last Friday	Change on week	Gross Div(p)	Yld %	P/E
1,750	Airsprung Ord	35	—	4.2	12.0	6.9
295	Airsprung 18½% CULS	118	—	18.5	15.7	—
700	Armitage & Rhodes	28	—	3.0	10.7	—
1,289	Deborah Ord	95	+1	8.2	8.5	4.8
230	Deborah 17½% CULS	115	+6	17.5	15.2	—
4,180	Henry Sykes	49	—	2.2	4.5	5.7
11,041	James Burrough	80	−1	6.0	7.5	12.7
2,387	Robert Jenkins	234	+1	25.0	10.7	5.2
2,997	Twinlock Ord	14	—	—	—	—
1,438	Twinlock 12% ULS	61	+2	12.0	19.7	—
2,351	Unilock Holdings	54	−1	6.1	11.3	6.8
4,348	Walter Alexander	72	−2	5.8	8.1	8.1

Freight report

As expected the past week has seen a slowing down in the pace of trading in the Gulf with a resulting softening in rates. The lull in trading which set in just after mid-month continues, although it was broken for a while as the weekend approached with a spate of inquiries for vlcc tonnage from New York.

The spate consisted of four vlccs of which two were fixed within hours and the others were reported to be closing in negotiating.

Charterers obtained worldscale 28.9 and worldscale 29 on these two tankers, which represents a fall of about two points on the average vlcc rate level of a week ago. Brokers foresee that the market will decline further over the next few weeks with rates likely to slip back a few more points.

The prompt fixing of the tankers reflects the current situation of an adequate supply of tonnage readily available to absorb any inquiries arising for early first-half April requirements.

David Robinson

Canadian golds rise as budget fears depress South Africans

Mining

Fears that the rate of the withholding tax will be drastically increased when the South African budget is announced this week led to falls among most of the South African gold mines at the end of last week.

Rumours that the rate would be increased from 15 per cent started in New York on Thursday and quickly spread to London. On Friday, despite the fact that the gold price rose by $1 to $153⅝, falls among the gold stocks ranged from 50p at President Brand (975p), West Driefontein (£17½) and Randfontein (£23½), downwards. Only five of the stocks held their own.

There were several versions as to just how much the tax would be increased to, with 40 per cent the most pessimistic and 30 per cent the most favoured. However, one source in London, which has good lines of communication with South Africa and which is not totally disinterested in the outcome, suggested on Friday that the rate would probably go up to 25 per cent.

Under the taxation treaty Britain has with South Africa, United Kingdom residents and United Kingdom companies with large holdings in South African companies should not be affected by any increase. For companies, the maximum rate laid down in the treaty is 5 per cent and for United Kingdom residents it is 15 per cent. There is also a double taxation agreement between South Africa and the United States.

It is of course possible that the double taxation agreements could be invalidated, but that would mean South Africa running the risk of alienating foreign capital being invested in the major mineral developments it is planning for.

However, while at the moment British and United States residents and companies may feel protected against any increased rate, the prospect cannot be bringing a warm glow to the hearts of investors; both corporate and private, domiciled in tax havens and in countries lacking double taxation agreements with South Africa.

South African gold shares have not been performing as they should have been over recent months despite the arguments of some of the more inveterate bulls of South Africa in London.

The reason is simple—the shares have been unable to shrug off the shadow of political risk, although the strength of this influence fluctuates from time to time.

But the reluctance to invest in South Africa will be all the greater if the withholding tax is raised to 25 per cent or 30 per cent. Brokers in London were saying, perhaps a little overdramatically, that a major increase would kill the international market in South African shares stone dead, for while there may be some protection under double taxation agreements an increase would underline the financing problems faced by the country.

It would also show that, while the South African government is more benevolent and consistent than most in its attitude to the corporate and private *investor*, it is not adverse to increasing its share of the take. The gold companies are still complaining bitterly about last year's increases in taxes and the loan levy.

But while the South African golds have not been too inspiring, more investors have been turning their attentions to that forgotten (at least as far as most Europeans are concerned) band of Canadian gold producers. As the table shows, there have been some appreciable increases in the Canadian stocks while the rises among a sample of the South Africans have not, in general, been so good (over the whole range of South African gold shares some have actually fallen since January 6 while others have shown a greater increase).

	Jan 6	Feb 23	Mar 24	% change Jan 6-Mar 24
Dome	$43½	52	54	24.8
Campbell Red Lake	$24⅝	29½	31	27
Agnico Eagle	$3.65	5½	7½	123
Giant Yellowknife	$6¾	6½	8½	24
Gold $ per ounce	$132.65	139⅞	152¼	15
FT Gold Index	116.8	119.1	134.5	15
Kinross	230p	245	265	15
Doornfontein	200p	245	230	15
F. S. Geduld	£10½	10	11½	14.6
Pres. Steyn	620p	630	670	8
Welkom	160p	150	208	30

A new breed of American investor in gold appears to be emerging and there is now widespread talk of the bullion price going to $175 an ounce before long on the back of the resilience it has been showing of late coupled with good investment and fabrication demand.

On that scenario, Giant Yellowknife is looking very interesting since with its high costs—about $135 an ounce—it is highly geared to advances *of but a few dollars an ounce* in the bullion price. The charts are also predicting a sharp rise, unless, of course, there is a setback in the gold price.

If the South African budget does raise the withholding tax then the Canadian stocks could rise faster than the normal fundamentals dictate since investors anxious to retain a holding in gold shares may start switching out of South Africa.

Desmond Quigley

The Commodities Column will appear tomorrow.

ITT looking at several new acquisitions

International Telephone and Telegraph plans capital spending of $740m this year compared with $618m last year, Mr Francis Dunleavy, vice-chairman, says in the annual report.

Investments in research, development and engineering were expanded to a record $525m and "one measure of the success of these programmes is our five-billion dollar backlog of orders at the year end", he said.

The group also plans to raise its authorized ordinary capital from $150m to $200m, as it has under review several acquisitions which could involve the issue of common stock or convertible securities. At March 9 about $7m worth of ordinary stock was available for issue.

Mr Harold Geneen, chairman and chief executive, said the strong fourth quarter results for 1976 were an indication of renewed momentum and the improved world-wide economic conditions. ITT's management is confident that the group has now returned to its traditional pattern of growth. "I have confidence that 1977 will prove to be one more outstanding year", he said.

There were excellent prospects in the telecommunications markets with the demand for both traditional equipment and new technologies far exceeding the capabilities of systems at present in use throughout Europe.

Sony Corporation's net income reached US$38.55m (£22.5m) in the first quarter to January.

This compared with $25.3m in the same period of the previous year with sales up from $406.7m to $453.5m. Sony expects both sales and earnings to grow throughout this year, but will maintain a cautious attitude towards any cost inflation which may arise.

The Carborundum Company of the United States has received acceptances for its agreed offers from 91 per cent of the ordinary and 89 per cent of the preference shares of Weyburn Engineering. Including the ordinary shares bought prior to the formal offer being sent Carborundum now controls 92 per cent of the ordinary.

Morison Son and Jones Holdings has received acceptances for its offer for Kimpher from 72.5 per cent in number of the shareholders to whom it was addressed. Morison Son and Jones Holdings now owns 81.4 per cent of Kimpher's total capital.

Deltec Trust and LET Investments now have 45.66 of the voting rights of Antofagasta Railway following offers.

Briefly

W. J. REYNOLDS

On turnover up from £8.19m to £13.67m, pre-tax profits of W. J. Reynolds Holdings rose from £53,000 to £104,000 in 1976. The total gross payment is being held at 0.84p.

N. BRITISH CANADIAN

In the year to February 28, gross revenue of North British Canadian Investment Co rose from £264,000 to £304,000. Total gross payment up from 16.92p to 20.79p. Board proposes sub-division of ordinary £1 shares into ordinary shares of 25p and then scrip issue of one 25p share for every two 25p shares held.

WHITTINGTON ENG

Last year Whittington Engineering's turnover rose from £789,000 to £910,000 and pre-tax profits from £132,000 to £154,000. Total gross payment is going up from 5.5p to 6.05p.

GIBBS & DANDY

Turnover for 1976 up from £6.71m to £7.92m and pre-tax profits from £260,000 to £307,000. Total gross payment raised from 2.27p to 2.5p.

ELECTRONIC MACHINE

Turnover up from £791,000 to £1.02m for half-year to Oct 31. Pre-tax loss, £162,000 (profit, £31,000). Group turnover is running 50 per cent up on last year. Order books are over £750,000. First-half reorganization losses are not expected to be totally absorbed by second-half upturn, but 1977-78 should be a year of increasing profit.

Unit Trust Prices—change on the week

FT Index change on week 418.1—10.4 (2.4%)

Prev W'end Offer	Ch'ge on Week	Trust	Bid	Current Offer	Yield
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Stock Exchange Prices

Capitalization and week's change

Account Days, Dealings Begin, Today. Dealings End, April 7. § Contango Day, April 12. Settlement Day, April 20

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock outstanding £	Stock		Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Int only Yield	Gross Red Yield
600m	Treas	11½% 1977	101⅞	+⅛	11.369	8.561
550m	Treas	3% 1977	96¹³⁄₁₆	..	3.122	9.212
212m	Trans	4% 1972-77	96¼	+⅛	4.161	9.476
1500m	Treas	9% 1978	99⅞	+⅛	9.040	9.430
500m	Treas	10½% 1978	101⅝	+⅛	10.364	9.416
400m	Exch	5% 1976-78	96½	..	5.181	7.302
630m	Treas	3% 1979	93¼	−⅛	3.221	6.031
1,400m	Treas	11½% 1979	102⅝	−⅛	11.247	10.188
275m	Elec	4½% 1974-79	94⅛	−⅛	4.509	6.787
1200m	Treas	10½% 1979	100¹¹⁄₁₆	..	10.430	10.185
230m	Elec	3½% 1976-79	92⅛	−⅛	3.801	6.817
1000m	Treas Cnv	9% 1980	98⅞	−⅛	9.102	9.444
1100m	Treas	9½% 1980	98¹¹⁄₁₆	+⅛	9.626	10.006
400m	Fund	5½% 1978-80	92⅞	−⅛	5.659	8.050
262m	Treas	3½% 1977-80	90⅛	−⅛	3.884	6.982
600m	Exch	13% 1980	106⅞	−⅛	12.164	10.670
600m	Treas	11½% 1981	103¹¹⁄₁₆	−⅛	11.091	10.292
433m	Treas	3½% 1979-81	88⅛	−⅛	3.970	7.025
800m	Treas	9¾% 1981	99¹¹⁄₁₆	−⅛	9.780	9.846
600m	Exch	12¾% 1981	107⅞	+⅛	11.849	10.616
861m	Treas	8½% 1980-82	97¼	−⅛	8.740	9.216
400m	Treas	3% 1982	86⅛	−⅛	3.470	6.284
600m	Treas	14% 1982	113	−⅛	12.390	10.564
600m	Treas	12% 1983	106	+⅛	11.363	10.703
500m	Fund	5½% 1982-84	86	..	6.479	8.465
600m	Treas	8½% 1984-86	92⅞	+⅛	9.347	10.025
550m	Fund	6½% 1985-87	77½	..	8.325	10.002
300m	Treas	7¾% 1985-88	83⅝	+⅛	9.458	10.550
2052m	Trans	3% 1978-88	58⅞	..	5.090	8.834
602m	Treas	5% 1986-89	62½	+⅛	7.971	10.377
600m	Treas	8¼% 1987-90	78⅞	+⅛	10.637	11.614
600m	Treas	13% 1990	106	+⅛	12.564	12.445
400m	Fund	5¾% 1987-91	61⅞	..	9.274	11.180
800m	Treas	12¼% 1992	102	+⅛	12.730	12.782
1100m	Treas	12½% 1993	100	+⅛	12.623	12.671
1250m	Treas	13¾% 1993	106⅛	+⅛	13.200	13.118
600m	Fund	6% 1993	59	+⅛	10.211	11.697
600m	Treas	14½% 1994	109⅞	+⅛	13.338	13.195
900m	Treas	9% 1994	79	+⅛	11.385	12.417
41m	Redmptn	3% 1986-96	38½	+½	7.784	10.440
214m	Gas	3% 1990-95	39⅞	..	7.591	10.566
900m	Treas	12¾% 1995	103⅛	+⅛	12.949	12.968
600m	Treas	9% 1992-96	77¼	+⅛	11.933	13.557
600m	Treas	15¼% 1996	117⅛	+⅛	13.598	13.401
600m	Exch	13¼% 1996	105⅞	+⅛	13.117	13.109
1500m	Treas	13¼% 1997	103½	+1	13.103	13.089
1100m	Treas	6¾% 1995-98	58	..	11.515	12.257
1100m	Treas	15½% 1998	113⅞	+1⅛	13.600	13.404
400m	Treas	9½% 1997	73⅞	+⅛	12.053	13.071
600m	Treas	9½% 1999	79	+⅛	12.123	12.590
433m	Fund	3½%	1999-04 34	+⅛	10.311	11.631
600m	Treas	8%	2002-06 63	+⅛	12.222	12.472
1000m	Treas	5½%	2008-12 43⅞	+⅛	12.061	12.275
600m	Treas	7¾%	2012-15 64	+⅛	12.262	12.433
752m	Consols	4%	31⅞	+⅛	12.551	..
1909m	War Ln	3½%	30	..	12.124	..
270m	Conv	3½%	30⅞	..	11.557	..
57m	Treas	3%	23⅞	+⅛	12.941	..
276m	Consols	2½%	19⅞	+⅛	12.548	..
462m	Treas	2½% Aft 75	19⅞	+⅛	12.974	..

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

Stock outstanding £	Stock		Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Int only Yield	Gross Red Yield
1.2m	Aust	5½% 76-79	93	+½	5.771	10.263
12m	Aust	5½% 77-80	87⅞	+⅛	6.253	11.320
20m	Aust	5½% 81-82	77⅞	+⅛	7.105	11.598
20m	Aust	6% 81-83	75⅛	..	8.001	11.364
14m	Aust	7% 79-81	84⅞	+⅛	8.207	11.638
——	Berlin	4½% Ass	92	−3	..	..
——	Chilean Mixed		90	..	..	..
5m	E Africa	5½% 77-83	68	+½	8.048	14.020
——	German	4½% 1930	195	..	..	..
——	Hungary	4½% 1924	30	+1	..	..
——	Ireland	7½% 81-83	76½	+⅛	..	..
5m	Jamaica	7½% 77-79	90⅛	+⅛	8.096	13.470
——	Japan	Ass 4% 1910	230	..	..	..
——	Japan	6% 83-88	74	..	..	..

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A—B

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div pence	Yld %	P/E
10.5m	AAH	157	−3	16.9	10.8	6.1
2,695,000	AB Electronic	81	−2	7.0	8.6	8.4
500,000	AC Cars	25	..	1.5	5.8	6.2
2,411,000	AGB Research	39	−3	3.0	7.7	4.0
45.9m	APV Hldgs	332	+4	15.7	4.7	8.7
11.4m	AVP Ind	60	−½	4.0	6.7	5.3
11.2m	Aaronson Bros	55	..	2.7	4.7	6.6
236,000	Abrasives Int	14	..	2.2b	15.4	..
1,072,000	Acrow	67	−2	3.4	5.1	10.6
21.7m	Do A	58	−5	3.4	5.9	9.1
2,665,000	Adda Int	15	−1	..e	..	1.8
11.9m	Adwest Group	171	+1	10.7	6.2	5.6
784,000	Aeron't & Gen	49	+1	3.1	6.4	20.0
12.2m	Airfix Ind	47	−2	4.4b	9.4	6.0
103.2m	Albright & W	93	−4	6.4	6.8	6.1
6,260,000	Alcan 10½%	£79½	+1½	1050	13.4	..
9,080,000	Do 9% Cnv	£80½	..	900	11.2	..
13.2m	Alginate Ind	242	..	19.2n	7.9	11.9
10.6m	Allen E. Balfour	54	..	6.7	12.3	5.0
1,034,000	Allen W. G.	34	−1	4.3	12.6	3.9
21.9m	Allied Colloids	137	−6	7.0n	4.5	10.5
4,320,000	Allied Insulators	45	−1	5.4	11.2	5.3
325,000	Allied Plant	16½	+½	1.1	5.9	4.3
6,324,000	Allied Polymer	34	−½	6.5b	20.0	..
7,197,000	Allied Retailers	92	−2	7.7	8.4	4.9
2,450,000	Alpine Hldgs	29½	−½	3.0	12.2	7.4
14.4m	Amal Metal	230	−2	19.8	3.6	7.1
7,872,000	Amal Power	76½	+1½	5.3	6.9	9.7
2,746,000	Amber Day	23	..	2.8	12.0	5.1
205,000	Amber Ind Hldgs	8	..	0.7	8.5	2.8
1,537,000	Anchor Chem	54	−5	5.7	10.5	..
12.3m	Anderson Strath	39	−1	3.9	10.0	6.6
4,422,000	Andre Silentbloc	42	..	2.7	6.5	9.3
3,105,000	Anglo Am Asph	69	..	3.7	5.3	6.9
120.8m	Anglo Amer Ind	450	..	43.5	9.7	4.2
647,000	Ang Swiss Hldgs	25	..	..e	..	..
2,161,000	Appleyard	59	−1	6.8	11.7	7.3
3,658,000	Aquascutum 'A'	22	−½	1.9	8.7	7.4
2,204,000	Arlington Mtr	67	..	10.0	14.9	9.5
21.9m	Armitage Shanks	57	−½	6.5	11.3	9.7
21.9m	Armst Equip	47	..	2.9	6.2	9.3
4,559,000	Ash & Lacy	120	+3	9.1b	7.6	6.7
246,000	Ash Spinning	36	..	4.8	13.4	2.5
112,000	Asprey 6% Pf	45	..	6.0	13.3	..
22.2m	Ass Biscuit	65	−1	4.4	6.7	5.9
5,244,000	Do A	65	−1	4.4	6.7	5.9
204.4m	Ass Brit Food	56	−½	2.8	4.9	6.8
56.1m	Ass Engineer	105	−2½	7.1n	6.8	7.7
9,130,000	Ass Fisheries	53	..	5.4b	10.4	10.4
8,316,000	Ass Leisure	33	−½	3.9	12.2	9.0
32.5m	Ass News	173	−14	7.4	4.3	14.4
2,939,000	Ass Paper	53	−½	3.3	7.0	..
133.0m	Ass Port Cement	139	−3	12.9	8.6	8.3
32.1m	Ass Tel 'A'	76	−1	7.3	9.3	10.3
418,000	Ass Tooling	24	−1	3.3	13.9	4.4
927,000	Astbury & Mdley	23	..	1.5	6.5	4.0
1,624,000	Atkins Bros	38	..	4.6	11.4	7.3
420,000	Attwood Garage	30	..	2.2	11.2	17.4
4,201,000	Audiotronic	34	−½	5.0	13.9	6.5
5,396,000	Ault & Wiborg	39½	−1½	2.3	10.5	5.3
3,379,000	Aurora Hldgs	68	−1	6.6n	9.7	3.9
421,000	Austin E.	40	..	6.0	12.6	3.6
34.7m	Automotive Pd	66	−1	2.6	3.9	11.1
4,093,000	Avana Grp	29½	−2	1.3	5.6	9.3
33.5m	Averys	145	−1	7.5	5.2	10.5
8,761,000	Avon Rubber	133	+10	7.7	5.8	9.3
894.9m	B.A.T. Ind	270	..	19.8b	7.3	8.6
621m	Do Dfd	234	−6	..	..	..
30.2m	BBA Grp	45	..	3.1	6.9	7.2
131.3m	BICC	104	−6	10.2	9.8	16.8
137.3m	BOC Int	73	−2½	4.1	5.6	7.0
67.2m	BPB Ind	134	−6	20.0n	8.5	5.0
232,000	BPM Hldgs 'A'	20	−2	2.9	14.2	7.9
10.2m	BSG Int	26¼	+1¼	2.3b	8.8	..
97.2m	BSR Ltd	121	−1	7.2	6.0	8.3

TEA

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div pence	Yld %	P/E
2,616,000	Assam Frontier	172	+7	12.1	7.0	..
2,682,000	Assam Inv	50	−1	5.1	7.0	..
4,183,000	Camellia Inv	165	+22	2.8	1.7	..
223,000	Doundi	45	+7	2.5	5.6	..
118,000	Doolahat	140	fb ..	5.0	3.6	..
4,502,000	Jokai	200	+5	12.1	6.0	..
5,251,000	McLeod Russel	220	+6	15.4	7.0	..
822,000	Moran	235	+75	13.9t	5.9	..
360,000	Surmah Valley	45	−5	2.5	5.6	..
6,469,000	Warren Plant	104	−6	22.0b	7.8	..

MISCELLANEOUS

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div pence	Yld %	P/E
26.6m	Algoma Cen Rly	1¾	−⅛	28.0	2.9	13.1
1,443,000	Antofagasta	£22½	h +1	..	..	..
2,344,000	Calcutta Elec	65	−2	10.3	22.3	..
——	E Surr Wtr 4.9%	£45½	..	490	10.8	..
1,161,000	Essex Wtr 5%	£33	+1	500	15.2	..
131.7m	Imp Cont Gas	363	−7	12.9	3.4	20.8
——	Mid Kent Wtr	£38½	..	560	14.9	..
453,000	Milford Docks	62	+2	2.5	4.0	29.8
1,604,000	Nigerian Elec	180	−2	19.5	10.9	..
——	Sunderland Wtr	£32	+¼	550	16.8	..

• Ex dividend. a Ex all. b Forecast dividend. c Corrected price. e Interim payment passed. f Price at suspension. g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. h Bid for company. k Pre-merger figures. n Forecast earnings. p Ex capital distribution. r Ex rights. s Ex scrip or share split. t Tax-free. y Price adjusted for late dealings. .. No significant data.

THE TIMES SHARE INDICES

The Times Share Indices for 25.03.77 (base date June 2, 1964 original base date June 2, 1959):—

	Index No. Latest	Div. Yield %	Earnings Yield %	Chnge over week
The Times Industrial share index	171.67	6.64	11.35	−5.27
Largest Coys.	173.30	6.45	10.79	−5.87
Smaller Coys.	166.41	7.26	13.20	−1.32
Capital Goods	165.74	6.82	13.23	−3.60
Consumer Goods	182.82	7.14	10.61	−3.24
Store Shares	136.15	7.32	8.17	−2.84
Largest financial shares	181.19	6.30	—	−6.79
Largest financial and industrial shares	174.90	6.42	—	−4.24
Commodity shares	220.63	4.88	10.77	−2.00
Gold Mining shares	266.18	8.28	16.93	−17.65
Industrial debenture stocks	57.75	6.88*	—	+0.46
Industrial preference stocks	55.30	12.69*	—	+0.05
3½% War Loan	30	12.02*	—	..

A record of The Times Industrial Share Indices is given below:—

	High	Low
All-time	198.47 (15.08.72)	60.18 (12.12.74)
1977	176.23 (17.03.77)	151.29 (12.01.77)
1976	171.85 (05.05.76)	113.83 (27.10.76)
1975	156.92 (19.11.75)	61.42 (06.01.75)
1974	136.18 (28.02.74)	60.18 (12.12.74)
1973	189.33 (12.01.73)	120.99 (14.12.73)
1972	198.47 (15.08.72)	174.48 (10.01.72)

* Flat interest yield.

Careers for Young People

A LARGE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION WITH OFFICES IN LONDON OFFERS CAREER OPPORTUNITIES TO A NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Who have a high degree of integrity, a sense of responsibility and good eyesight. These opportunities will appeal to young people who [illegible] concentrated more on developing their all round capabilities [illegible] interests since the work involves learning a particular sk[illegible] which could lead to an interesting and rewarding career. Opportunities do occur from time to time to serve overseas in circumstances which any young person would consider very adventurous. At least two academic subjects at "O" level, or its equivalent, are essential although further "O" and "A" levels could well be an advantage.

The work is carried out in spacious offices in a congenial and friendly atmosphere.

- £2,032 under 18, inclusive of annual bonus
- £2,443 over 18, inclusive of annual bonus
- Sports and social club
- 5 day week, 8.45 a.m. to 4.45 p.m.
- Attractive pension scheme including free life assurance and personal accident cover.

Write with brief particulars and telephone number to:

MR. M. H. BOORMAN,
2 CHANTERHOUSE STREET,
LONDON EC1N 6RX

JOBS WITH A CHALLENGE

ENTER THE WORLD OF ADVERTISING

The Advertisement Manager of the Pharmaceutical Journal requires a Secretary to help him in his contacts with advertisers and keep his office running when he is out on business. The successful applicant will have good shorthand and typing speeds and be adaptable enough to stand in when required for other members of the advertisement department staff. Salary in the range of £2,532 to £2,784.

ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR IN FILING DEPARTMENT

Our Central Filing Department is about to undergo a complete re-organisation and we need the right person interested in revising it right from the word GO! Have you been looking for a real challenge? For the right person we will pay in the range of £2,532 to £2,784.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OPPORTUNITY

Secretary Assistant wanted for busy press office to work for HEAD OF PUBLICITY. Work will bring you in contact with Newspapers, Radio, T.V. and Parliament. If you have good shorthand/typing and can work on your own initiative this job could be just what you've been looking for. Salary not less than £3,000.

The working conditions are excellent in modern offices over looking the Thames, just 12 minutes walk from Waterloo Station. Benefits include a superannuation scheme, 4 weeks holiday and a subsidised restaurant. Hours are 9 to 5 Monday to Friday. Telephone the Office Manager for an appointment on 01-735 9141. The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 1 Lambeth High Street, London, S.E.11.

MARKETING ASSISTANT
£3,500

Dynamic Marketing Director seeks graduate with secretarial skills, some business experience. Interested in more than just a secretarial job; able to do own investigation and reports, 25-ish.

SECRETARY
to Shipping Research Director
£3,000 neg.

As much scope as you want helping young team secure marine project reports—typing, shorthand, own research prospects. Age 19/24.

SENIOR SECRETARIES

Lawrence House
3/8 Trump St., EC2V 8DA
01-606 1611

Keep up with
'THE TIMES'!

Young, intelligent Secretary, about 20+, required for busy Telephone Sales Manager. Interesting, lively atmosphere for someone with the ability to cope under pressure.

Salary £48.65 per week; subsidised restaurant; 4 weeks and 3 days holiday after 6 months, rising to 5 weeks after 1 year's service.

Please telephone for interview:
Mr. Brian Wexham
01-837 1234 ext 7115 now

SOLICITORS, W.1.

require Shorthand Secretary with good speeds, in young friendly office.

Might suit college leaver wanting a career in law.

Salary up to £2,000.

Telephone: 437 6800.
Reference C.E. or V.D.B.

W.8 TRAVEL COMPANY

(specialising in Tours) requires experienced Sec/P.A. for the Managing Director. Interesting varied work requiring good typing, audio and shorthand skills. Able to work on own initiative. Preferably under 30.

Salary £3,000 (negotiable) plus travel discounts.
Please phone 01-937 6662.

How the secretary-bird can feather her nest

In general there are two types of secretary: Those who constantly seek out more responsibility to make their jobs more interesting and themselves indispensable, and those who are poorly educated and have blundered into office work.

Those secretaries in the first category are valuable assets to their employers, who know only too well the importance of making a job as interesting as possible. A well trained secretary need never be out of work and never bored with his or her job.

Many firms have discovered that the qualities which make an efficient secretary are precisely those which are necessary in a senior executive post and many are willing to forgo formal academic qualifications in exchange for sound secretarial experience.

Of course, many jobs are offered as, or are converted to become by the enthusiastic applicant, "stepping stones" to a more rewarding career, and it seems that on the whole it is secretarial and office jobs which offer the most potential for this.

Recent research has shown that a high proportion of young people in clerical posts are dissatisfied and would prefer to do something more ambitious. Statistics show that 56 per cent of men and 41 per cent of women who leave one office job for another do so to get more job satisfaction.

The main areas where it seems that a mundane job can be converted into the beginnings of a satisfying career are in advertising, marketing, public relations, sales promotion, and the travel industry. Because of the nature of these businesses skill and flair are quickly recognized and traditionally encouraged.

Sadly, there are other areas where there is an emphasis on formal qualification, to the extent that in some offices the over-qualified secretary dominates. In some areas considerable job-satisfaction problems are created, although advertisements are now appearing which insist that applicants for certain jobs should not have been educated to university level. Whether this is the start of a more realistic approach to levels of qualification remains to be seen, but increasingly in-job training or retraining is being regarded of prime importance.

Now that unemployment is moving downwards and the much-talked-about economic recovery and new orders may actually be on their way, scope for retraining is increasing. Companies hoping to benefit from any boom will be investigating retraining to see what is required and who among its existing staff want to move a grade or two upwards. Competition for trained office staff is fierce and the ambitious can turn this to their advantage, if not financially, because of wage restraint, at least in terms of job satisfaction.

Export houses, for instance, will hopefully be looking for new staff and young workers in such offices will be ideally placed to move a step upwards, as the complexity of the business and the jargon involved will already be familiar.

The nationalized industries are also aware of the talent they may readily have on tap in their offices and typing pools. The British Steel Corporation in 1974 issued a directive to its management that the names of able secretaries should be put forward as candidates for junior management vacancies.

A British Steel working party reported: "We are unconvinced that a natural progression for an intelligent young woman who joins the corporation as a shorthand typist is simply to become a secretary to a succession of increasingly more senior personalities."

Mr Bernard Marks, probably the best known figure in the employment agency business, shares that opinion and has given evidence to a parliamentary committee that it is management that has created a large pool of temporary workers by failing to weed out unnecessary clerical work.

Mr Marks is also of the opinion that what many office staff want is not more money but more job-satisfaction and jobs which can lead to an important career. He has already written a book on this subject, pointing out to office workers the prospects open to them.

In his book, published three years ago, Mr Marks gathered together interviews with 12 former secretaries who have gone on to be managers in journalism, banking, publishing, one to be an MP and another to join the board of Christie's.

The book points out that none of the girls had any formal training in management techniques, but learnt their management skills by watching their former bosses in action.

The point Mr Marks makes is that had the people involved been men they would probably have started as management trainees. As girls they had to start in a secretarial chair wielding a pencil.

At the time of Mr Marks's book it was said by some commentators that able secretaries progressed in spite of rather than because of management attitudes. Whether this is still the case is arguable, but many secretaries have had to launch their own businesses to get the job satisfaction they seek.

David Young

JUNIOR SECRETARY WITH FRENCH TO £3,000

English shorthand, "A" level French, good typing and a bright personality are needed for this super job working with young dynamic men in the luxurious City offices of a Merchant Bank. Lots of opportunity for promotion.

Bernadette of Bond
No 85—
next door to Fenwicks
01-629 3660, 01-629 7363

BUTTERWORTH
EDITORIAL VACANCIES

Butterworth, the legal publishers, have three vacancies for sub-editors to join their editorial teams working on major publications and legal text-books. Applications are invited from those with academic and/or professional legal qualifications with a sound knowledge of English law. Starting salary £2,400-£3,500, a.a.e. Applications in writing, giving full c.v. to Mr Christopher Kent, Personnel Dept.

Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd.,
88 Kingsway, London WC2B 6AB

YOUNG SECRETARY, £3,000. Cosmetic house. Aged 21+. To work for Sales Director based in the West End. Help to organize sales force, some admin. work. Interesting job, Golfball typewriter. 3 weeks holiday and 10% per day L.V.'s. Contact Gail Cowan, 499 6715, Alfred Marks Bureau, 271 Regent Street, W.1.

£2,350 neg.

French/English Secretary, 22-34, with shorthand in both languages for E.C.2 bankers. This is an attractive opening for a second jobber.

£3,300

Secretary/Shorthand Typist, 20+, for charming young Partner in E.C.2. Legal firm.

£3,000-£3,200

For capable Secretary/Shorthand Typist (22-35) with good educational background for City Merchant Bank. Excellent perks.

c. £2,700

For Secretary/Shorthand Typist, 18-19, with some previous experience for E.C.2 Bank.

Please telephone
SECRETARIES PLUS
01-283 9953
(The Executive Secretarial Consultants)
170 Bishopsgate, E.C.2.

A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION...
£3,250 plus prospects

Our clients are a group of young Commodity Brokers and they are looking for a bright young Secretary who would like to work in a frantic atmosphere. This is an ideal career opportunity for a self-starter as they are prepared to train you to become a Broker.

For further details phone Sheila at
STAFF INTRODUCTION SERVICES
01-328 3257/5591

MAKE USE OF YOUR SCIENCE

If you have a Science Degree, "A" levels or a Laboratory background use your skills to become a Technical Advisor/Representative. Many opportunities currently available throughout the UK. Salaries from £3,000-£5,000 + Car + Benefits.—Phone or write (no stamp needed) for further details:

01-221 5222
TALENTMARK
FREEPOST, LONDON W2 1BR.

YOUNG DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY

Young Secretary, 20 plus, required by one of the young Directors of a small, friendly team situated close Charing Cross station. Newly equipped offices in period building. Good shorthand and typing speeds essential.

Salary £3,000 plus bonus

Ring Mrs Bromley,
01-839 6342

Mayfair Car Showroom

Young Secretary age 19+ to work for 3 dishy young men. Very happy, relaxed atmosphere and a vacancy occurs only due to promotion. £2,500 neg.

ALBEMARLE APPOINTMENTS
31 Berkeley St., W.1
01-499 3712

American Company in W.1

Requires lively young secretary to work for vice-president. Office client liaison, hotel reservations and organising meetings and seminars. Scope for advancement within this small busy organization. To £3,000 plus fringe benefits.

SUSAN HAMILTON PERSONNEL
33 St George's Street, W.1.
499 5406/6236.

EYE FOR DESIGN . . .

Young friendly team of Interior Designers need a go-ahead Secretary, in early 20's, to help run their Studio. There's no easy routine to take on. It's a new venture and you'll need to make sure the operation runs smoothly. Salary £2,500 to start.

YOUR FINGER ON THE BUTTON . . .

The Director of Programmes of a ion TV station needs a 2nd Secretary for his busy office. This is a key position in the competitive world of television, so we are looking for someone with good secretarial skills and at least one year's experience, who can face a demanding job at the heart of a major organisation. Salary around £2,900.

GROSVENOR BUREAU,
43 South Molton Street, W.1.
499 6566/7/8/9

HELP THE AGED

The Senior Operations Officer of one of our largest departments urgently needs a PERSONAL ASSISTANT to share the day-to-day administrative responsibility. The job requires a person in their 20s, lively, intelligent, and with sound organising ability. Salary is negotiable, c. £2,500 and the job is London-based close to Green Park. Please apply giving full career details to Frank Baker, P.O. Box 4UB, London W1A 4UB, quoting ref.: JT/4.

ADVERTISING. — Secretary/P.A. prepared for some sales assistance for general sales manager. An opportunity to join a successful team. Media advertising experience an advantage. £3,250 plus L.V.s.—Ring Richard Portugal, The Pearl & Dean Group Ltd., 01-734 8731.

COLLEGE LEAVING SECRETARIES with an interest in magazine and book publishers, for wide selection of vacancies ring London Town Bureau, 836 1994.

BANKING, Accountancy, Stockbroking, Insurance and Shipping. "O" or "A" level candidates. Tel: Basil Employment Agy., 623 5851.

NOTICE

All advertisements are subject to the conditions of acceptance of Times Newspapers Limited, copies of which are available on request.

What does it take to be an Army Officer?

Arrogance?

Once upon a time, most of our soldiers were sons of the soil. Officers, with one or two exceptions, were the gentry.

Each understood his respective place in the scheme of things. The rank and file knew that if they stepped an inch out of line, they'd get an instant hammering.

Crude, but reasonably effective at the time.

Nowadays things are a whole lot more complicated. In the first place, our soldiers are well-educated. They are quick-witted and not at all subservient.

Some of them have had 9 years and more experience. All of them are professionals. It takes considerably more than a touch of class to win their allegiance and co-operation.

You have to know their job better than they know it themselves. And you have to be able to lead both physically and intellectually.

An aversion to responsibility?

There is an old and fondly cherished idea that an Army Officer's life is totally controlled by orders from above. In fact an Army Officer carries a tremendous burden of responsibility.

At its simplest, this responsibility covers 30 trained soldiers. Tell them to do the wrong thing at the wrong time and someone could end up dead.

At its most complex, an Officer's responsibility involves decisions on questions of legality and morality under active service conditions.

Decisions which could later be judged by trained minds in conditions of peace and tranquillity.

At all times an Officer is responsible for the mental and physical well-being of the men under his command, and their equipment which can be extremely complex not to mention expensive.

And that alone is a lot more responsibility than most jobs offer a chap before his twenty-first birthday.

So if you're going to answer this advertisement, you'd better be a glutton for responsibility.

A lack of ambition?

One reason some people think of the Army as a haven for stick-in-the-muds might be that Junior Officers don't seem to be engaged in a rat race of the kind one sees in some business concerns.

They aren't. There's room for everybody who can come up to the required standard.

Another reason might be that young Officers frequently appear to enjoy life. And this isn't too surprising.

They're given responsibility for a group of trained soldiers. They're paid £2,987 as Second Lieutenants and the Army does everything in its power to train, inform, educate and develop them.

They could be sent on courses in anything from winter or jungle warfare to parachuting or helicopter flying; some go to University and the Army's College of Science at Shrivenham to take degrees. They still travel widely. And promotion to Captain by the age of twenty-six is not difficult provided you do your stuff.

The learning about matters technical, tactical and strategic goes on in one form or another even among the most senior ranks.

But the competition warms up. Promotion to Major follows a stiff exam and assessment. Another hurdle is getting into Staff College.

And that's the way it is right to the top. After Major, promotion is by Selection Board – impersonal and scrupulously fair. But at each level only the best get through to the next rank.

There's no disguising the fact that to become one of the 9 full Generals in the British Army you have to be very, very good indeed.

Neither nepotism, wealth nor social standing will get you there. It takes hard work, ability – and pretty colossal ambition.

If you are under 29 and you would like to know more about the qualities we look for in an Officer candidate, write an interesting letter about your educational qualifications and your hopes and plans for the future.

Send it to Major C. N. B. Wellwood, Army Officer Entry, Dept. , Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London W1X 6AA.

Army Officer

INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANY

seeks recent University Graduate for its rapidly growing

SHIPPING ACTIVITIES

The individual will have the disciplines and aptitudes necessary for a thoroughly professional approach to his/her areas of responsibility, familiarity with financial fundamentals such as economic evaluation techniques and budget procedures. An engineering background would be desirable.

Please write with full details of qualifications experience, age and present salary to:

MARATHON INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM (GB) LTD,
35-38 Portman Square, London W1H 0BN.
Attention: P. Thackray.

'THAT AGENCY'

This is the newest—and probably the smallest—specialist Recruitment Agency for the Communications Industries. There are jobs in Advertising, P.R., film companies, etc.—from secretarial and reception to executive. Being advertising people themselves the two partners of "That Agency" really know their business. Try them.

'THAT AGENCY'

165 Kensington High Street, W.8. 01-937 4336
(open till 7 p.m. every Thursday)

GENERAL TRAINEES

Major watch and clock company requires two general trainees, one to work with the General Manager on special projects, and one to work in the Watch Department initially on sales administration and statistical work, and on publicity and promotional work.

Starting salary to £3,000 p.a.

Apply in writing to R. W. Hartman,
THE BENTIMA COMPANY LTD.,
168/172 Old Street, London, E.C.1.
01-253 5444.

THE JOURNAL OF A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION BAYSWATER

is seeking an

ADVERTISING MANAGER/ESS

to be responsible for all related duties. Typing experience advisable. Salary £2,700 p.a. plus fringe benefits but opportunity to take on greater responsibilities for right, enthusiastic person. Please telephone Mrs. Alexander,

01-229 9738

TAMESA FABRICS CHELSEA

Requires lively young Showroom Assistant. Very good typing essential. Negotiable salary with excellent prospects.

Write: 343 King's Road London, S.W.3.

P.A./SECRETARY
PARLEZ VOUS FRANCAIS ?

An opportunity to use your fluent spoken and written French with Computer Leasing Co. in small pleasant offices in West End. SHORTHAND NOT NECESSARY but good typing required. Knowledge of Telex and small switchboard an advantage. Age 20 plus.

RING KATHRYN, 01-839 2941

A JUNIOR SECRETARY

for exciting new insurance venture based at Temple. Good telephone manner, typing and shorthand. Salary £2,800 negotiable. Season ticket loan, L.V.'s & usual fringe benefits. Phone Mrs S. Reale, Policy Signing & Accounting Centre Ltd., 01-836 7576.

ORGANISE TOURISTS
£2,800 to start

Educated shorthand Secretary with stamina and character required to help organize foreign students in summer school courses and travel, etc. Ability to write French an advantage. Lots of involvement and a chance to travel. Prospects of promotion end of summer. Ring Pam Harding.

Victoria at St. James's
1 Stratton Ground, S.W.1.
01-799 4161
1 min. St. James's Park Tube

WOMAN MAGAZINE

wants an

ASSISTANT BEAUTY EDITOR

Can you write in depth features, produce lively ideas, organize a photographic session and liaise in the running of a busy department? If so, you could be the person we are looking for.

Write to Sue Pilkington, Beauty Editor, Woman, Kings Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.

THE DESIGN COUNCIL PRESS OFFICE

Secretary required for Senior Press Officer and his staff in lively young Department dealing with press releases, receptions and Design Council publicity.

Applicants should have speeds of 90/40 wpm. Conditions include flexible working hours, 18 days' annual paid holiday. Salary according to age, up to maximum starting point of £2,673 p.a. rising to £3,222 p.a.

Please apply to Mrs Ward, 01-839 8000, ext. 88, after 9.30 a.m.

THE NEW OPPORTUNITY PRESS

We publish the country's leading career books and have an impressive growth record. To help our continued expansion we are seeking talented and well educated trainee executives to join our young sales team.

Selling experience helpful but if you feel you have the stamina and enthusiasm to make a successful career in advertising sales, write soon, giving career details to, Ken Burnett, The New Opportunity Press Ltd, 76, St. James's Lane, London N10 3RD or ring 01-444 7281.

This opening is London based.

MONICA GROVE RECRUITMENT LTD.

Exclusive Cosmetic House, W.1, seeks a quick, neat Junior Typist for Marketing Dept. Some figures and filing. Must be reliable. To £2,400 plus cosmetics. Great prospects.

Chance for involvement in tiny Oil Operations Co., for privately educated young Secretary with some shorthand. Clerical/administrative work to aid assistant who delegates. Lovely atmosphere. Suit college leaver/2nd jobber, £3,000.

839 1082

DO FREE Luxury Cosmetics appeal? Secretary £2,700 plus bonus and L.V's. This Mayfair based French cosmetic company is looking for a well educated, well groomed young secretary to assist their Training Executive. Secretarial skills are essential as is a good telephone manner. Please contact Christine Syed, 499 5831. Alfred Marks Bureau, Senior Secretarial Division, 16 Lansdowne Row, W.1.

STEP INTO

Advertising:	from £2,700
Television:	from £2,900
Personnel:	no sh. £3,000
Cosmetics:	from £2,600

JAYGAR CAREERS
730 5148

THEATRE DESIGNERS, W.1. need young Secretary. Salary £3,000.—Ring Judy Farquharson Ltd., 01-493 8824.

AMERICAN BANK TRAINEE.—A career opportunity second to none with a sound training scheme will introduce you to the exciting world of high finance. Good qualifications "O" "A" levels, including Maths and English are essential in order to qualify for professional exams. If you enjoy wheeling and dealing then this is a chance not to be missed. This worldwide company give tremendous perks, benefits and a commencing salary of £2,300. Age 18-ish.—Call Mike Blundell Jones, 637 9922, Prime Appointments.

STEP INTO P.R.?
£2,750 +

P.R. Co., just off Fleet St., would like to see you if you have a secretarial background and would like to train into P.R. Interesting position with promotion prospects.

SCOPE RECRUITMENT,
589 3990 and 589 3998.

Are you in the home interest market?
The Times introduces
Weekend
SHOP AROUND

The only opportunity for many couples to do their major household purchasing is often confined to Saturdays. The Times will be helping them with their buying decisions with a new weekly editorial entitled "Weekend Shop-Around", appearing each Saturday from April 2nd.

The new section will consist of a minimum of 4 pages, editorially designed to be a distinct and highly attractive section of the newspaper. It will contain two high quality articles each week, the first on shopping and the second on a home interest topic.

The readers of The Times are affluent, acquisitive and house-proud, and thus represent an ideal market for advertisers offering goods and services relevant to the home and domestic activities.

If you are in the home interest market, don't miss the opportunity of appearing in this special new feature which is being extensively promoted both on posters and in The Times.

Advertisers booking into the first five issues of Weekend Shop-Around will qualify for a special concessionary rate of only £5.50 per s.c.c.

For further information, or to book your advertisement, call The Times on: (01) 278 9351. In the North call our Manchester office on: (061) 834 1234.

THE TIMES

Appointments Vacant also on page 18

All recruitment advertisements on this page are open to both male and female applicants.

MARKETING CONSULTING

United States marketing company planning international expansion is seeking applicants for positions as marketing consultants.
Must have excellent command of English language and annual earnings record over £8,500.
We will pay all expenses including transportation and training in beautiful Arizona, USA, to ethical individuals with energy and ability to grasp this unique opportunity. Annual income potential is $40,000 and up. No investment required.

Apply in person to Grosvenor House, Park Lane,
9 a.m.-4 p.m. Telephone 499 6363. Mr. Donald Shure will interview for immediate replacement.

FINANCE & ACCOUNTANCY

INTERNATIONAL OIL GROUP PART QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANTS £5,000

Major Oil Group with worldwide interests are setting up a new London office and can offer a career second to none. Prospects are excellent for part and newly qualified accountants (A.C.C.A., I.C.M.A., etc.), seeking a worthwhile future. These opportunities span a wide range including Management Accounts, Budgeting, Taxation, Audit and the control of Purchase Accounting. Age 24+. For further information call Mr. A. Armistead.

637 9922

PRIME APPOINTMENTS

CHARTERED or Certified Accountant holder of practising certificate required by medium size firm of accountants. Good salary.—Telephone D. K. Kounnis & Co., 01-539 0103/2258.

OPENINGS at all levels in the Professions.—Gabriel Duffy Consultancy, Kensington. 01-937 9321.

GENERAL VACANCIES

Opportunity for
EXPERIENCED BOOKKEEPER

to run growing international subscription department in an old established and happy Bloomsbury publishing company. Excellent conditions, top salary negotiable.

Please phone Mrs. Nash.
01-637 2211

AMERICAN

with valid pilot's licence and executive ability required as Assistant to Director of an Irish Engineering Company with wide international activities. Location: Dublin. Interesting work for suitable man of good background. Age: 26-40. Write with details and photo to:

Att. Managing Director,
UNILOKOMOTIVE LTD.,
46-48 Upper O'Connell Street,
Dublin 1.
Rep. of Ireland.

RELAXED ROLE FOR UNQUALIFIED AUDITOR, £4,250

Pleasant, non-pressurised post for an unqualified Audit senior at the small, S.W.1., office of a large organisation. Involves wide range of basic Accounts functions but no tax or V.A.T. problems. Lunch facilities and good holidays. Miss Graham. LAURIE & CO., 91 Moorgate, E.C.2. 606 6501.

ADMIN. ASSISTANT, £3,000

Continental Bank in the City seek person 20+ to be involved in the arrangement of all renewal loans to overseas Governments and multinational Companies, working in a friendly environment where ability to deal with own correspondence and typing a definite advantage. Phone N. Dickason, 638 3691
DRAKE PERSONNEL (Agency)

AMBITIOUS YOUNG CHEF required to start new restaurant in Berkshire pub. English and French cooking with emphasis on quality freshness. Top salary plus incentive plus potential same. Live in or out. Ring: Great Shelford 271.

SMART YOUNG PERSON (27-35) required by Company owning pleasure boats, to work as Assistant to Director. No experience required, but must be prepared to work minimum of three nights p.w. behind bar of new luxury boat. Hours flexible.—Ring 01-839 5819

BRITISH TOURS LTD. require Driver Guides, 21/45, living in Central London, and owning modern saloon cars.—Please 'phone 629 5267.

THREE PERSONS, male or female, required. Experienced in hotel work generally; to be used as medium staff as transfers locally and with a new foreigner hotels management company. Applicants will be offered a high level salary. Send us your curriculum vitae and a recent photo. Perfect knowledge of two European languages is required.—Applications have to be addressed to P.O. Box 239, Piraeus, Greece.

GENERAL VACANCIES

TRAINEE EXECUTIVE CONSULTANT

E.C.2 or W.1

If you like working with people and could believe, as we do, that finding them jobs is an important and professional activity, then we can offer you a long-term career in one of the U.K.'s largest employment agency groups. Total individual responsibility for your own applicants in a vigorous entrepreneurial but socially aware environment.

We want to recruit two well-educated people, either with previous agency experience or as trainees, £3,000 to £5,000 initially a.a.e.

01-588 1051

ACCOUNTANCY PERSONNEL
63 Moorgate, London, E.C.2

Fully experienced
TRAVEL AGENT

required in Brandon, Manitoba, Canada. Owner will be at the Park Plaza Hotel, London, England,

March 28th to April 3rd

Please 'phone for appointment and interview. Ask for Mrs. D. M. Craig.

SECOND CHEF

required to join young team in small but very busy kitchen. High standard English and Continental dishes cooked with imagination. £74 p.w.

PRENTICE (MOTCOMBS), Belgravia.
235 6382

TWO REPS for N.E. and S.W. London for new company marketing unrivalled patented product to wholesalers. Own car essential. Reply with full curriculum vitae Box 0539 J, The Times.

OXFORD RESTAURANT needs quick thinking, good looking, hard-working trainee manager/ess person. Good pay for impressive applicant. Box 0544 J, The Times.

COUPLE AS COOK & CREWMAN. Upper Thames cruise barge. April-October. Reading 470949.

YOUNG SUB-EDITOR required for national weekly magazine. Knowledge of countryside an advantage.—Box 0196 J, The Times.

INTERNATIONAL BANKING experience. Age 18/30.—Tel. Basis Employment. 623 5551.

FOREIGN Merchant Bankers invites applications for the post of Local Representative. Male or Female. Will be in charge of lending and business development in the corporate sector as well as of investments opportunities. Applicants must be proficient in English and have a thorough knowledge of the corporate, industrial and commercial market. Applications in writing in English, giving full particulars, to be accompanied by recent photo, to the General Manager, P.O. Box 239, Piraeus, Greece, will be treated in the strictest confidence.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

ALANGATE Legal Staff, the specialist consultants to the profession, offer a confidential service to employers and staff at all levels. Telephone for appointment or write to Mrs. Rolnick, Mrs. Harkness, or Mr Gates. 01-405 7301, at 6 Great Queen St., London, W.C.2. (off Kingsway).

LONDON LEGAL BUREAU. Specialists to the legal profession. Central London and rural vacancy list available on request. No fees to applicants.—Ring 278 6837.

Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments

NON-SECRETARIAL

FLORISTS

We seek an experienced Florist to help open and run our new shop in the Knightsbridge area. You'll be recruiting your own staff and terms of employment are all negotiable.

Telephone: 589 0629 or after 6: 584 0225
Or write to Miss Bartlett,
7a Montpellier Sq., S.W.7

MATURE BIOSCIENCE GRADUATE OR TECHNICIAN

required to supervise Clinical Electrodiagnostic Dept. Incremental salary £3,000 p.a.
FURTHER PARTICULARS FROM SECRETARY, RHEUMATOLOGY DEPT., ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL, LONDON, S.E.1. TEL. 01-928 9292. EXT. 2371.

ADVERTISING MANAGER/Manageress Copy Writer required for Employment Agency. Must have ability to write copy for press magazines, etc., and initiative to make use of other media. Will also be responsible for Monthly/Annual Budgets of Agency Branches, and for weekly report figures. To mix with small, friendly team at Head Office. Typing essential.—Rand Services. 491 3774. Brenda Kaye.

RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY for pleasant Mayfair offices, good telephone manner, typing (Golf Ball), shorthand, PMBX. Good conditions. £2,600. Free lunch. Ring Mrs Walwyn. 01-629 4382.

ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT (age 30-55) required for training consultancy, to deal with all aspects of sales ledger and invoice preparation (non-mechanised). Typing essential. Hours: full-time 9.30 to 5.00, or daily part-time hours to be mutually agreed. Salary £2,500 approx. or pro rata for part-time hours. Pleasant small offices, close to Oxford Circus Underground and West End shopping. Please write with details (or telephone) to Patricia Law, Industrial Training Service, 73-75 Mortimer Street, London, W1 (637 8876).

GERMAN speaking girl to run a boutique in Sicily for 6 months. Must be presentable and fashion conscious. Ring Judy Farquharson Ltd., 01-493 8824.

£3,400 PLUS Admin. Colleague is sought to handle correspondence and liaise at the highest levels by influential London-based International Division. 734 5266, G1.

TOUR OPERATOR requests Local Representative, female, aged 21 to 35. Successful applicant will be offered a very good salary and high commission on her personal contacts. Send us your curriculum vitae and a recent photo. This is strictly confidential therefore, write us everything explicitly and in detail. Persons already working with airlines are preferable. Perfect knowledge of two European languages is required. Applications, in English, have to be addressed to P.O. Box 239, Piraeus, Greece.

NON-SECRETARIAL

WEST END ADVERTISING AGENCY

REQUIRES
RECEPTIONIST/TYPIST

Someone intelligent and personable to supervise reception area, attend to visitors and operate small switchboard. Good accurate typing required. Salary negotiable. Ring Denise Shear, 836 9824.

ORGANIZING ABILITY? CAR? 30-58 age range?

A varied 3-day week working in London. Salary and allowances. Service background an advantage.
Women's Transport Service (F.A.N.Y.). The Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3.

Tel.: 01-730 2058 (Mon.-Thurs.)

COULD YOU COPE with clients in person from Artists to Industrialists? If so we have an unusual Receptionist/Typist position for applicant who likes a job with involvement, working in a super friendly atmosphere. Age open. It's the personality that counts plus good typing.—Tel. Mrs. Byzantine, Norma Skemp Personnel Services. 01-222 5091.

PETER EATON Booksellers, require an energetic young person with experience of the antiquarian book trade to manage their shop at 80, Holland Park Avenue, W.11. Applications in writing.

COOK for Norfolk Estate. Cottage provided. Cheerful, educated person who will fit in with the family. Age 25-35 preferred. Ring Judy Farquharson Ltd., 01-493 8824.

ADMINISTRATIVE POST for ambitious person (18-21 years) in busy Fleet Street office. Essential that she/he has good "O" and "A" levels. Private letters of application, to include qualifications, to Miss Deane, 107 Fleet Street, E.C.4.

INTERIOR DECORATORS, based in Bath, seek Assistant to run attractive small shop selling fabrics, wall papers, decorative furniture, etc. Some experience essential.—Tel. Bath (0225) 318888 mornings only.

DOLPHIN SQUARE requires a Letting Officer/Administrative Assistant, age 25+. Must have a sense of humour, common sense and patience. Ability to type useful. Salary £3,600.—For details 'phone Mrs. Perkins, 834 3800, ext. 27.

USE YOUR GERMAN! £3,200 is the starting salary for bi-lingual m./f. Secretary. Progressive Co. Work with 3 friendly people!—Brook Street Bureau, 589 0091.

LIKE CHILDREN? Then here's a lively job for m./f. Secretary dealing with children from abroad. £3,800, 4 weeks hols.—Brook Street Bureau, 834 5745.

NEW OPPORTUNITY.—Press need Trainee execs.—See Stepping Stones.

NON-SECRETARIAL

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

Alfred Marks need really bright, enthusiastic interviewers with a talent for getting on with people and a sense of humour, to make even a dull day seem fun. Know what we mean?
If you have commercial office experience or, even better, an agency background, you're for us! (But don't worry, we do operate excellent training schemes.)
If you have the sort of sales ability which turns rain into sunshine and you want a career with good promotion prospects and a chance to earn lots of money—then we'd love to meet you!
If you are energetic, outgoing and aged between 23 and 35, then pick up the phone now and find out more from Mollie Routledge.

on 930 1609
Alfred Marks Bureau
14 Villiers Street, W.C.2.

PERSONAL STATIONERY

We have either full or part-time vacancies in our department which covers customers' requirements for diestamping, printing and copperplate orders. This is interesting and varied work and we give full training for the same.
Please 'phone Mr. Pemberton or Mr. Karsack
01-235 2128
TRUSLOVE & HANSON
Booksellers & Court Stationers
205 Sloane Street, London
SW1X 9LG

GERED

Requires a number of intelligent assistants in their Wedgwood specialist shop in Regent Street, to sell china and glass to overseas visitors. Salary according to age and experience + generous commission and L.V.s.

Please ring Miss Tristram at 734 7262.

SPECIAL EVENTS ORGANIZER

The World Wildlife Fund in E.C.1 is planning a wide range of public events, shows and exhibitions. We need an Organizer capable of handling the detailed planning and administration. Interesting and varied duties require the ability to get on well with people at all levels in Industry, the Arts and Commerce, and the initiative to take a project through to a successful conclusion. Salary £3,000-£3,500.

For further details and application form phone Miss Craig.

01-404 5691

TV RECEPTIONIST

T.V. Network needs a cheerful, presentable Receptionist who can take over travel bookings, etc. Around £2,900.

PROMOTIONS CO. RECEPTIONIST

Small, friendly Promotions Co. needs a helpful Receptionist, capable of chatting to people at all levels, and tactfully dealing with important clients (must type). £2,750.

PATHFINDERS, 629 3132
32 Maddox St., W.1.
(1 min. Oxford Circus Tube).

HELP SUPERVISE AND TEACH NEW SKILLS

Interesting deputy supervisor role at West End H.Q. of well-known Computer consultancy for impeccable Typist good at staff liaison, capable of learning computer typing system, teaching others and demonstrating to sales force. Lovely offices, generous benefits and up to £3,330. Miss Green:

CHALLONERS,
145 Oxford St., W.1.
437 5022.

STUDENT ORGANIZER, £3,000+

Meet and advise students on available courses, handle questions on management training, be trained to take the responsibility of the department, distribute student study literature, be responsible for personnel data, monitor advertising response, screen calls, order course brochures. Your secretarial skills will ensure all. Call me, Caroline Marsh, on 221 6040
DRAKE PERSONNEL (Agency)
10, Pembridge Road, W.11

INTERVIEWER

We need an enthusiastic Interviewer to join our busy team. You'll need self-motivation and the ability to think and work fast.

Interviewing experience an asset but more important is a working knowledge of the Communications Fields in which we specialise, including Advertising, P.R., T.V., Music and Films. Call 629 3132. Pathfinders Bureau.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Organise press conferences, order photographs, liaise with photographers, deal with press releases for the leisure industry. Arrange bookings, hotels and invitations, all as secretary to the busy Account Executive. Want to give it a try? Call Caroline Marsh at DRAKE PERSONNEL (Agency) on 221 6040
10, Pembridge Road, W.11

CHARITY

Learn about public relations, assist with the circulation of magazines, meet deadlines, handle articles on beneficiaries, and features on this well known organisation. Assist with donations and opportunity to attend hotel luncheons and reunions. Your secretarial skills are all you need. Call Caroline Marsh on 221 6040.
DRAKE PERSONNEL (Agency)
10, Pembridge Road, W.11

ADMIN. ASSISTANT, S.E.1. Good telephone manner and clerical exp. To £3,200 commencing. 4 weeks hols. Belle Agy., 405 4844.

SECRETARIAL

ORGANIZE EXHIBITIONS

Travel around England as you attend exhibitions, sell space for clients, handle problems and queries, deal with electricians, carpenters, etc. about the stands. Assist your executive boss in every way. If you have secretarial skills, enjoy Luncheon Vouchers, BUPA and interest-free season ticket loan, ring me today. Sue Webb, on 734 0911. DRAKE PERSONNEL (Agency), 225 Regent Street, W.1.

MONDAY at Covent Garden usually brings many exciting new permanent and temporary jobs. Whatever your age or background call in to discuss your special requirements with the well known Fleet St. Agency Covent Garden Bureau, 53 Fleet St., E.C.4. 353 7696.

ARCHITECTS' ANGEL required by International W.1 practice to cope with secretarial work of senior personnel and supervise one junior. Interesting, responsible work. Appropriately high salary. Please phone Christine Latter, 01 935 9353.

SECRETARIES for Architects. AMSA 734 0532.

COLLEGE LEAVER SECRETARIES.—It's always the widest choice at COVENT GARDEN BUREAU, 53 Fleet Street, E.C.4. 353 7696.

AUDIO TYPIST for luxury Estate Offices. Permanent position for a friendly and capable person. Goldenberg & Co. 491 4101.

RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY Mayfair.—See Non Sec Vacs.

MEDICAL SECRETARY Receptionist, S.W.7. Starting in April. Dr. Dancey. 01-373 6657.

WEST END AD. AGY.—Receptionist/typist.—See Non-Sec. Vacs.

SPANISH/ENGLISH P.A. (French). English shorthand. £3,000+. 30+.—Language Staff, 629 8385.

BILINGUAL SHORTHAND. English mother tongue, P.A. Various language jobs. £3,800.—Language Staff, 629 8385.

LEGAL SECRETARY for Partner in Solicitors offices in Marble Arch, W.1. Excellent conditions. Legal experience essential. £3,000 per annum, plus L.V.'s, 3 weeks' holiday (present arrangements honoured).—Tel. 402 9131.

PART-TIME SECRETARY required full day Mon., Thur. and Fri. Near Barts Hospital, EC1. Salary neg. Phone 606 6897.

SOLICITORS, W.1 req. sh./sec.—See Stepping Stones.

SECRETARIAL

INSEAD—European Institute of Business Administration
Fontainebleau
(60 km south of Paris)

seeks urgently:

1 BILINGUAL SECRETARY and 1 BILINGUAL SHORTHAND TYPIST

English/French

Location: on edge of forest
University environment
1 month summer
1 week winter holiday

Please send detailed CV, business reference, photograph to:

SERVICE DU PERSONNEL
INSEAD
BD DE CONSTANCE
77305 Fontainebleau Cedex
France

MUSIC, W.1

Lots of contact with agents and aspiring stars as secretary to the Artists and Repertoire manager of this international record company. Keep track of the tapes sent in by budding artists, make appointments, keep the diary; use your secretarial skills in this busy young office. Luncheon Vouchers, concert tickets and cheap records. Call Amanda Hoare on 734 0911. DRAKE PERSONNEL (Agency), 225 Regent Street, W.1.

TRAVEL, £3,300 NEG.

Help plan tour operations for U.K. and Overseas. Deal with the major airlines on prices and bookings. Organise the production of brochures—progress chase printers: Liaise with hoteliers, internationally. Get involved with marketing forecasts. Let your shorthand typing skills give you a demanding and rewarding future. Call Julia Smith 353 0381, DRAKE PERSONNEL (Agency), 61 Fleet Street, E.C.4.

EXCEPT A CHALLENGE, £3,500

You'll be involved in multinational operations as Sec. to the two charming go ahead partners of this W.1 firm. Meet the clients and liaise on all their new projects. Become indispensable and appreciated as you hold things together and use your initiative to the full. The offices have been designed to their own specifications and are very modern and impressive. So with sec. skills and your desire to really move ahead ring now Marion Hill on 828 7361.

CHURCHILL PERSONNEL
Abford House
15 Wilton Road, S.W.1.

FASHION ADMINISTRATOR, £3,500

Use your personality to succeed in top fashion company. Have the opportunity to travel to Amsterdam. Organise the London showroom, deal with shipping agents and suppliers throughout Europe. Enjoy generous discount on fabulous fashion. Could you promote this company's image? Your secretarial skills could bring you this exciting opportunity. Ring now, Diane Bridges, on 734 0911.
DRAKE PERSONNEL (Agency)
225, Regent Street, W.1

COLLEGE LEAVER FOR CHAIRMAN'S SUITE AROUND £3,000

Opportunity for bright College leaver with good secretarial background to work for the Chairman of a small, Jermyn Street company. Offers first-class experience, loads of variety and interest. Miss Baines.

CHALLONERS,
193 Victoria St., S.W.1.
828 3845

HELP MARKET TOP FASHION RANGE

Marketing Manager of major, international fashion range needs a really experienced young Secretary with a willing attitude to work to help him with a wide range of interesting marketing and promotion tasks. Around £3,500 + L.V.s and discounts. Miss Castle,
CHALLONERS,
17 Broadway, S.W.1.
222 5062

A GOOD ORGANIZER FOR KEY MEDICAL COORDINATOR

Interesting secretarial role with optional shorthand working with senior executive at leading medical establishment. Involves wide-ranging tasks including organisation of hospital visits for training courses. To £3,000 plus free lunches. Miss Miller:
CHALLONERS
407 Oxford St., W.1.
629 9651.

SILVER JUBILEE

Public Relations—organize promotions in Hyde Park for the Queen's Silver Jubilee Celebrations. Assist with producing press releases and be responsible for circulating them to magazines and dealing with press clippings. Your secretarial skills and initiative are all you need to keep everything organized.—Call Cathie French today on 734 0911. DRAKE PERSONNEL (Agency), 225 Regent Street, W.1.

SAILING

Organise and attend yachting races. Advise on lock procedures. Liaise with wealthy yacht owners. Handle inquiries on mooring rates; be fully conversant in all aspects of this exciting new Yachting Marina. If you are interested in meeting people let your sec skills and flair for organising ensure this P.A. position. Call Maggie Verner now. 628 3691.
DRAKE PERSONNEL (Agency)
80 Bishopsgate, E.C.2

BILINGUAL SEC., Eng./French for 3 Execs. English shorthand and French typing essential. In Bank, E.C.2 area. Age 20/35. Salary to £3,000 plus 25p L.V.s. 4 weeks hols. p.a.—Judy Freeman Employment Agency. 248 1043.

HABLA ESPANOL?—International organisation seeks PA/Secretary for their Spanish co-ordinator. Fluent Spanish and English shorthand a must. Prestige W.1 offices. £3,500 neg.—Bond St. Bureau, 629 0641.

PUBLISHING SECRETARIES.—For the widest choice it's always Covent Garden Bureau, 53 Fleet St., E.C.4. 353 7696.

TELEVISION PRODUCTION company requires capable Secretary for friendly W.1 office. Shorthand/typing skills required. Varied work. Good appearance.—734 9304.

FAMOUS PUBLISHER, Central London, needs well-educated and polished P.A./Sec., 20s, to deal with correspondence connected with literary and some political interests. Good formal skills, able to compose some letters, and organise smoothly variety of commitments. Driving licence useful. £3,300 p.a. + excellent selection of fringe benefits.—Joyce Guiness Bureau, 589 8807/0010.

ANTIQUES. West End. P.A./Sec. Early 20's, to help launch vast and exciting new project. Liking for antiques useful. Salary £3,250 p.a. + 935 9519.

GERMAN/ENGLISH Senior P.A. Bilingual shorthand. 25+. £3,800+.—Language Staff 629 8385.

£4,000.—Top Secretary/P.A. with either fluent French or German to help set up brand new offices for International company in W.1. For further details. Phone Barbara Fairlight 493 1251. Alfred Marks Bureau, 115 New Bond Street, W.1.

SECRETARIAL

SECURITY PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LEASING (EUROPE) INC.

are offering two position in our prestigious Knightsbridge offices for

SECRETARY/P.A.

to the Head of the Special Products Branch.
The position requires very good shorthand and typing plus general secretarial skills. Knowledge of telex preferable. Initiative and organizational ability essential.

SECRETARY

for UK Branch.
This situation would be suitable for a college-leaver. Good typing essential—no shorthand necessary.
Both positions offer attractive salaries, 4 weeks' holiday, L.Vs., travel assistance, bonus scheme and BUPA. The hours are 9 to 5.30 and working conditions are extremely good in a very friendly atmosphere.
Please 'phone 581 1556, extension 29.

SECRETARY

required for Director of Chelsea Estate Agency. Good shorthand and typing essential. Ability to act on own initiative. Salary negotiable. Telephone:

351 2383 Sandra Foucard

NOT TO LABOUR A POINT!

Merely to say that at the most conservative estimate we have an unusually liberal selection of top jobs! No need to steel yourself, we'll take the agony out of job hunting and help you make your future plans successfully!
Coffee's ready—Welcome!
PERMANENT & TEMPORARY

JOYCE GUINESS BUREAU
21 BROMPTON ARCADE
BROMPTON ROAD,
KNIGHTSBRIDGE, S.W.3
(Brompton Arcade is a few steps from Knightsbridge Tube Station, Sloane St. exit).

589 8807/0010
THE place for top jobs!

TRAIN AS A CONSULTANT

We are a large expanding International Group offering Management opportunities, security and high earning capacity in a competitive environment. You'll be interviewing the public and working closely with professional organisations in commerce and industry. Salary is highly negotiable a.a.e. If you are career minded, 23 plus and have sound commercial experience, call me now. Anne Morris on 734 0911. DRAKE PERSONNEL (Agency) 225 Regent Street, W.1.

MAINLY ADMIN., £3,500

Administration will pay a large part of your day as you can forget about shorthand with this well known interesting firm. You'll be handling all the follow up on customer purchases, i.e., records of sales, invoices, ordering stationery, lots of telephone contacts with clients and wholesalers and provide a full backing to their team of consultants. So really become involved and enjoy the fast moving pace of this career position—ring now with your audio. Nick Scudamore, 828 7361.
CHURCHILL PERSONNEL
Abford House,
15 Wilton Rd., S.W.1.

PUBLIC RELATIONS P.A., £3,000

There is an opening for your to join this super P.R. Officer and provide a full back-up to his day. You can become involved with lots of confidential duties plus arrange travel and meetings and liaise by telephone throughout the world. So with your French and German you'll certainly be given the opportunity to use them in a very creative way. Sec. skills are the key. Don't hesitate to call David Scott on 828 7361.
CHURCHILL PERSONNEL
Abford House, 15 Wilton Rd., S.W.1.

THE ARTS, £3,250 + +

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MATURE SECRETARY/P.A. with calm disposition and several years experience at senior level for Director of International Co. W.C.2. Applicants will be responsible for all confidential work, arranging travel and social functions, so good knowledge of food and wine an asset. Salary £3,600 plus excellent fringe benefits.—Tel. Maureen Cole, 405 6757. Nu-Type.

PA SECRETARY £3,600 neg. Large food and drink manufacturers are looking for top PA/Sec. to work for one of their international directors. Lots of PA duties. Luxurious offices in Park Lane. Accuracy more important than speeds. 4 weeks holiday. Subsidised lunches, discount on purchases. Please contact Gail Cotton, 499 8742 Alfred Marks Bureau, 271 Regent Street, W.1.

P.A./SEC., age preferred about 24, to work at executive level. Excellent company. E.C.4. A knowledge of German advantageous. Essentials are: Good skills, good manners, good grooming and organizing ability. Own office. Salary £3,500. Phone: Miller & McNish (Agy.), Regent Street. 01 637 7868.

P.A.—Private company, Mayfair. Interesting and friendly. Salary circa £3,250.—Telephone 499 4851 before midday.

YOUNG SEC. with a little business experience wanted for manager of exploration dept. of W.1 Oil Co., £3,000.—Bugh, 493 2755.

SECRETARY/PERSON Friday. Private house, St. John's Wood.—Tel. 286 3181.

GERMAN Bilingual Secretary for W.C.1 EXPORT Sales Agents. Not just a desk job. Salary £4,000. Ring Judy Farquharson Ltd. 01-493 8824.

£3,100, plus perks, admin. orientated 21+ is sought by advertising director of W.1 fashion conscious co. 734 5266. G.I.

EXCELLENT PROSPECTS for m./f. working as assistant to shipping co's. manager. £3,000. L.V.s, bonus. Civilized hours, 9.30-5 p.m. Brook Street Bureau, 589 0041.

PUBLIC RELATIONS CO. offers splendid opportunity to m./f. Copy Typist to learn about press releases, etc. To £2,800. Brook Street Bureau, 589 0041.

P.A./SECRETARY ASSISTANT ! Luxury pottery from overseas. Languages useful. Overseas clients. £3,500 for m. or f.—Brook Street Bureau, 937 6115.

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FRENCH SPEAKING P.A. FOR SOCIALIZING M.D., £3,500 NEG.

Lively managing director of well known City company constantly involved with client entertaining, needs an efficient P.A. with top secretarial skills and fluent conversational French. Excellent conditions, generous benefits, plenty of variety and interest. Miss Gibbs

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SEC./P.A., £3.000 + +

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required

for Partner in firm of Estate Agents near Oxford St. Shorthand and some audio. 3 weeks holiday. L.V.'s. Private patients plan. Salary £3,000 negotiable. Contact Mrs Brooks:

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P REG. VOLKSWAGEN CARAVANETTE

April '76, 4.3 berth, with elevating roof and fitted sink and cooker. One owner, low mileage and in superb condition, with every extra, including fitted radio. Full service history from new. Still under maker's warranty. Cost when new £4,750.

£3,400
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LAND/RANGE ROVERS/Bedford chassis cabs. Good delivery. Dingo Croft. Tel. Walton on Thames 28779.

1935 AUSTIN RUBY in good condition. Current MOT. £850 ono.—Basingstoke (0256) 3075.

1973 (M) B.M.W. 3 F.A. gold, new gearbox. £3,250.—Tel. Chilham 646.

CITROEN PRESTIGE L.W.B. Luxury CX "C" matic, air cond., tinted glass, elec. windows. Phone Normans, 01-624 0043.

LANDROVER, new diesel, 12-seater station wagon with delivery miles only at £5,225. For immediate sale.—Phone 01-457 5854.

FIAT 126, practically as new, registered November, '76, 5,300 miles. Sun roof. £900.—Tel. 937 6230 (after 6 p.m.) or 606 8235 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

ROCKET AGE PERFORMANCE with drawing room comfort in Bristol, Britain's most exclusive car. Prices from £17,000, earlier used models from £5,000.—Ring actual manufacturers. 01-603 3556.

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H reg. Velvet green matching interior. 1 previous owner, excellent throughout, history available.

£5,850
Phone 286 0703 day
441 2543 eves

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RANGE ROVER HIRE. Cheapest in London. Tel. Walton on Thames 28779. Dingo Croft.

SITUATIONS WANTED

TWO EX-SPECIAL FORCES require work. London, Channel Isles, overseas, nightclub work preferred.—Box 0921 J, The Times.

SITUATIONS WANTED

PRESENTABLE, industrious man, 25 yrs, well qualified and experienced in classical hotel management, seeks employment in private hotel, country house or administrative post where particular background would be an asset. Preference: the U.K. or American continent.—Box 0862 J, The Times.

FLAT SHARING

OWN ROOM, female, lux. flat N. KEN. £18pw. 247 6918 daytime.

N.W.2.—Own room, flat in block. £20 p.w. (incl. C.H., h. & c.), lift and porterage. 450 3541.

PROF. MAN to share smart flat. Swimming pool. Own room. Chiswick Park area. £70 p.c.m. excl. telephone (returnable deposit). 01-995 8634 after 6 p.m.

PERSON TO SHARE FLAT. Own room, opp. S. Ken. tube. £15 p.w. 384 7557 after 6.

S.W.4. 2nd girl to share spacious flat. £41 p.c.m. Tel. 673 3364.

S.W.7. Own room, 3rd girl. Luxury flat. £18 p.w. 373 1431 eves.

MAN, 25 PLUS, own room, luxury W8 flat, £72 inc. p.c.m. 937 2065 eves.

W14.—Own room in comfortable house with friendly family. £16 pw. 603 3054 (eves.).

PROF. MAN to share luxury Blackheath flat with director there 3 nights per week. Age 25 plus. £25 pw. 353 3541.

SOUTH KENSINGTON. Single room. £16 p.w. would suit professional person. Tel. 370 3505 after 6.30 p.m.

NW6 3rd girl share luxury flat, own room. £17 pw. 3-4 months. 624 4955 after 6. Near tube.

PROFESSIONAL MAN to share Holland Park House, own room. £68 p.c.m. inc. Tel. 930 7311, ext. 136/30.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE. Own room for lady in luxury flat, quiet tenancy. £25 weekly incl. 01-589 6557.

NW3.—Girl share flat, own room. £70 pcm and returnable deposit. Tel. 686 3758.

W.C.1. 3rd person, girl, grad. prof., own room. £42 p.c.m. 636 1760 after 6 p.m.

CHELSEA BEDSIT, own bathroom, male 25 plus. Short let. £87 p.c.m. 751 0586 after 1 p.m.

W.12. 2nd person 25 plus, own room. £16 p.w. inc. 749 4504 after 6 pm.

CHELSEA. Small mod. flat, room for 1 boy or as a pied-a-terre. Box 0535 J, The Times.

GIRL mid 20s for W2 flat, share bedroom. £40 p.c.m. Phone 727 3605 after 6 p.m.

ONE PERSON. Own double room plus almost excl. use of SW5 flat. Colour T.V., C.H., c.h.w., washing machine. £25 pw incl. for 3-9 months. Phone 373 8813 or 937 3817.

FLATMATES. Specialists — 313 Brompton Rd. SW3. 589 5491.

SHARE-A-FLAT. Personal, efficient service. 175 Piccadilly. 493 1265.

FLAT-SHARE. 213 Piccadilly. 734 0318. Professional people sharing.

ONE PERSON, own large room, 15 x 12. See West Ken. this column, or phone 603 3789.

S.W.7.—4th girl to share. 26+. £10 p.w. incl. 373 1445 (eves.).

W.4.—3rd f. share house, 25ish, int. in arts. £7.50 p.w. 994 5699, eves.

S.W.6.—4th graduate. Own room, £42 p.c.m.—Tel. 731 0266 after 7 p.m.

CHELSEA.—Girl, own room and bathroom, beautiful house. £16 p.w. inc.—352 2753 day or night.

SUNNY ROOM, W.2 C.H. flat. £17.50 incl. Ref.—221 8779.

S.W.11.—1 prof. man to share room in elegant flat. £36 p.c.m. Service and linen incl.—228 3626.

CHISWICK.—Prof. female, comfortable room in luxury maisonette, sharing k & b. C.H. £80 p.m. incl. Returnable deposit. 730 5171 or 995 1757 eve.

N.W.8.—Girl share room, in large super luxury flat. All amenities. £45 p.c.m. incl. c.h.w. 286 5683.

VICTORIA, close station and parks. Girl with one other. Own room: £75 p.c.m. inc. Tel. 834 8791 day and eves.

GIRL WANTED share room, Pimlico, £12 p.w.—821 0361 (after 7 p.m.).

N.1. Girl, 20+, own room, luxury house. £56 pcm. Eves. 276 1594.

KENSINGTON CHURCH STREET.—Girl, 27+, own room, luxury flat. £20 pw.—937 7867 eves.

SW20. Own spacious room in elegant ch shared house. Dining room, lounge, garden, etc. Waterloo 20 mins. £22 pw incl. 946 8614 after 6 pm.

RENTALS

W.1. Central position near Oxford St./Regent's Park. Spacious sunny flat comprising 2 double beds., dining room, sitting room, kitchen diner, 2 bathrooms, c.h. Available 1 year £70 p.w. Suitable prof. persons visiting, embassy personnel. Not suitable sharers. Please telephone between 10.30 a.m.-2 p.m. 486 4569.

KENSINGTON W8. Newly decorated furnished garden flat. 2 rooms, dining room, k & b, ch, chw. 12 months. £37.50 p.w. Box 0375 P, The Times.

HYDE PARK FLAT for Easter Hols. 1st-22nd April. Sleeps 3. £200 incl. C. H. & Porter.—01-262 7050.

ANGEL.—Lovely 2-bedroomed flat, fully furnished including washing machine and phone. £37 p.w. 278 6133.

HYDE PARK flat to let for 1 year. Reception, 3 double bedrooms, k & b. £100 p.w. 262 7030.

HOWARD WALK, N2.—Semi det. house. Gdn. Gge. 3 beds, 2 recept. k & b. £90 p.w.—James & Jacobs 930 0261.

RENTALS

Kenwood

THE LETTING PEOPLE
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ADVANCE NOTICE

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB, NW11. June or July occupancy for up to four years for this recently furnished and decorated semi-detached house. Two reception rooms, with leather furniture, master bedroom with king size bed and en-suite bathroom, two further bedrooms, shower room, fully equipped kitchen with wine store, front and rear gardens, gas central heating. Rent £150 p.w.

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01-584 3232

Knightsbridge, studio flat, £35. Putney, town house, 3 bed., large reception, k. & bath plus shower, for family, £55 min. 1 year let. W.C.1, house and garden, 3 bed., reception/dining, k. & b., for family, £60. Hampstead, modern flat and communal garden, 3 bed., recept., k. & b., £90. Wandsworth, family house, owners off to Hong Kong, 4 years, 5 bed., 2 vast reception rooms, kitchen, 2 bath, playroom, utility room, double garage, ¼ acre garden and weeping willow ! PARTLY FURNISHED. £150, Mrs. S. E. Ferrier.

IF YOU ARE LOOKING for a flat or house in London, call Abbey Ltd. today. Rentals from one week to one year. A prompt service for visitors and companies: 51 Beauchamp Place, S.W.3. 01-584 7692.

BARNSBURY, N.1. Superb town house immediately available for 3 months. 3 beds., luxury kitchen, etc. Plus roof garden with beautiful views over London. £80 p.w. 609 2062.

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FOUNDER of Educational Charity has accommodation available for conscientious professionals wishing to be involved in a creative environment.—Please telephone 235 0376.

UNFURN. FLATS wanted, F. and f. purchased.—603 4671, Dixon & Co.

ONE WEEK TO 99 YEARS, please ring Living in London. 629 0206.

FIRST CLASS tenants & 1st class flats, houses required in Central London. Kalmar Baker & Co. 581 4661.

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KNIGHTSBRIDGE, short lets, luxury flats, 584 3307 or 937 4676.

MARYLEBONE HIGH ST. Pleasant 3rd floor flat, fully furnished: double bedroom, reception, k. & b. £58 pw. Tel. 229 2510.

AMERICAN EXECUTIVE needs luxury furnished flat or house up to £120 pw. Usual fees required. Phillips Kay & Lewis 629 8811.

CUMBER MOSS specialise in luxury flats and houses for overseas visitors in Central London: week to 1 year lets: 1 to 5 bedrooms; £75-£300 per week.—Tel. 637 0778.

GROSVENOR SQ., Mayfair, W.1. Luxury furn. or unfurn. 3 bedroom flat. £158 p.w. Tel. 629 9620.

MARBLE ARCH. Luxury flat for visitors. Sleeps 3/4. £200. 01-904 7760.

WIMBLEDON.—Very large, elegant furnished duplex; 2 recepts, 3 dble. beds, fully equipped k. & 2 b.; gas c.h.; garden; exceptional; £60 p.w.; 1 year.—Tel.: 01-947 7950.

ROYAL AVE., CHELSEA.—Luxury duplex appt.: 2 beds, 2 baths. £200 p.w.—Cheval Estates 584 2818.

ATTRACTIVE 3 bedroomed newly dec. furn. house; thru' lounge; fitted kit. and cloaks. C.H. Garden. £50 p.w.—Church Bros. 439 0585.

S.W.3.—Attractive ground-floor flat. 1 dble., 1 single bed., kitchen recept., bath., c.h., c.h.w. Available now. 4 mths. £60 p.w.—Willett, 730 3435.

KENSINGTON.—Superb spacious unfurnished flat, 5 beds, 4 recep. 2 baths. Rent £3,750. Complete contents for sale.—Landway Securi !

MARBLE ARCH.—House, 3 beds, 2 recept., 1½ bath. Available now for short let. Min. 1 month. £150 p.w.—James Douglas 351 0511.

BEHIND CLARIDGES.—Serviced mews flat in quiet pocket of the West End; 2 double beds; £230 p.w.—Hunters 837 7365.

W.2.—Beautiful s/c. flat, one person £15 p.w., two £60 p.w.—Tel. 727 5305.

RENTALS

WANTED

Executive seeks Home (Sheffield)

Sheffield-based executive and wife seek furnished accommodation in surrounding countryside within 30 mins. drive of city centre. Minimum one year.
Tel.: Sheffield (0742) 77601 (Mitchell business hours).

LUXURY IN LITTLE VENICE

A superb period house in an excellent location just 5 minutes from Warwick Arch. Furnished and equipped to the highest standard and providing the following outstanding accommodation.

5 reception rooms, 5 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, showerroom, magnificent fitted kitchen, laundry room and garden. Gas-fired central heating. Residents parking.

Available immediately for long term let at £500 p.w. incl.

Short term let considered—rent to be negotiated.

For further details of this exclusive property please call :

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01-584 7881

N2, 3 rooms, £35. N6, Mod. studio, £40. SW6, 3 rooms, £43. W4, 4 rooms, £50. WC1, 3 rooms, £67. SW6, House, 4 rooms, garden, £85. SW3, house, 5 rooms, garden, £110. NW3, 3 rooms, patio, £110.

£1,000 P.W. FOR TWO WEEKS

visiting American family need a luxury country house between Birmingham and London.

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Tel : 492 0671

REGENT'S PARK.—Exclusive and lux. development. 3 beds., double recept., fitted kit., 3 baths. Service. Long/short let.—Century 21, 839 6325.

KATHINI GRAHAM Ltd. have a large number of applicants looking for good quality furnished properties from £100-£200 p.w.—01-584 3285.

S.W.7.—Newly dec. and furn. flat in block. Double bed, study, recept., k & b: 6 months min, 9 months max. £130 p.w. o.n.o. C.H., C.H.W. incl.—James & Jacobs 930 0261.

CHELSEA. Newly decorated sunny 1 bedroom flat. Available 6 months plus. £100 pw. Homeguide, 235 6155.

LANCASTER GATE, W2. Overlooking Hyde Park. Spacious 2nd floor flat with 4 bedrooms, dble recep., 3 bathrooms, kitchen & utility room, art deco furnishings. Available now. £140 p.w. inc. C.H. Marsh & Parsons, 937 6091.

WIMBLEDON. Family house avail. 1 year min. 3 bedrooms, newly dec. CH, patio. £55. Around Town Flats, 229 9966.

HAMPSTEAD FLAT in block, 3 bed., recep., k. & b. £95 p.w. Cheval Estates, 584 3818.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE APTS. 1 bed. recep., k. & b. Cheval Estates. 584 2818.

5 BEDS, SW7. Spacious flat. 2 reception, 2 bathrooms, cloaks. CH. £250 pw. Robin Hilton & Co. 493 8841.

HIGHEST QUALITY apartments and houses required for overseas visitors, companies, banks, embassies, etc. From £60 p.w. upwards on short summer lets. Long. Furnished unfurnished, short leases. Please contact Aylesford & Co., 351 2383.

MEWS HOUSE, Victoria to let summer months. 2 bedrooms, fully furnished. £80 p.w. Sharpthorne 810456.

MAYFAIR. Avail. now in prestige block for 3/12 months renewable, several well furn. flats, 1 db., 1 recept., k. & b. from £85 p.w., 2b, 1 recept. k. & b. from £90 p.w. Hampton & Sons, 01-493 8222.

JOHNSTON & PYCRAFT, Estate Agents.—We take care to find suitable tenants and have a varied selection of property.—Ring 370 4329.

S.W.1.—Luxury 2-bedroom flat in modern block, lift, porter, c.h., c.h.w., colour T.V. £80 p.w. 3-4 months.—Tel. 834 5788.

SHERIFF & CO.—Luxury furnished flats, houses wanted and to let. Long/short term. 229 6800/6363/6527/3807.

LANDLORDS.—Let's get together and fill those empty flats with reliable tenants. Ring Warburton & Co., 730 9954.

SWOP Luxury Florida Fort Lauderdale home for equivalent London, W.1 Flat 4/6 weeks April-June. References provided.—262 0615 after 5 p.m.

W.14.—Latymer Court super 3 bedroomed flat, £70 p.w. inc. c.h., c.h.w.—937 5811.

2 FURNISHED FLATS S.E.1 and N.W.8. 2 bedrooms, £35 p.w. No sharers.—Jonathan David & Co., 286 6181.

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RENTALS

Cutlass

We do not claim to be magicians, we do try harder to find good tenants for good properties. If you wish to let a flat or house in London, please telephone us to discuss your requirements. We have long-established contacts with many banks, companies and embassies and we need good properties for responsible applicants.

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SLOANE GDNS, SW3. Large attractive studio flat for 1 person. £32 p.w.

MOUNT PARK RD., W5. Modern ground floor flat with garden. Double bed, recep. k & shower. £38 p.w.

DRAYCOTT PLACE, SW3. First floor twin bed, recep. k & b. Elegantly furnished, c.h., phone, etc.; 3 mths + £45 p.w.

REDCLIFFE GDNS, SW10. Spacious well decorated double and single bedrooms, large lounge, modern k & b. Ideal small family or company let. £65 p.w.

HAMPSTEAD HEATH, NW3. In modern block with lift and porter; 3 bedroomed flat on top floor. Every item of luxury equipment to ensure 1 year's comfort. £90 p.w.

01-828 5251

NORTHWOOD. 3 dble bed, large recept., dining recess, 2 bath., super kit. Close Tube. £95.
WEMBLEY. 3 bedroomed house, gge. Close Underground. £65.
EALING. 4 bedrooms, 2 rec. super house. £80.
HAMPSTEAD. 3 bedroomed apartment. Close Underground. £85.
CHELSEA. Studio, sep. k & b. £40.
HENDON. Delightful 3 bed house, garage, newly decorated. £80.

LIPFRIEND & CO.
499 5334

MARBLE ARCH, W.1.—Fully furnished flat in elegant Georgian house. 2 rooms, k. & b., C.H., lift, entry phone, telephone, col. t.v. Available, rental from £75 p.w. Phone 402 9131.

OVERSEAS VISITORS holiday flats in Belgravia, 2-6 mths. Double bedsits £28 p.w. incl. S./c flats from £62 p.w. incl. Lancaster Gate, 2 bed, 2 bath. £70 p.w. excl. Tel. Baltoria, 01-235 3658.

WANTED URGENTLY, central/suburban houses/flats for overseas firms: £30-£250 p.w.—Birch & Co., 935 0117 (anytime).

KENSINGTON, S.W.5.—Attractive furnished serviced flats, long or short lets, from £60 p.w. Cowan & Kumar, 373 7737/8.

ETON RD., NW3. Immaculate ground floor flat, 1 dble, 1 single. Large recep., k. & b., shower room, patio. Avail immediately. Long let. £100 p.w. KAL 735 5616.

KENSINGTON, W.14.—Spacious 1 bed ground floor flat; 1 recep. k & b. Suit couple. Long let. £40 p.w. K.A.L. 581 2337.

FULHAM PALACE RD., S.W.6.—Maisonette with 2 dble and 1 single bedrooms, recept. k. and b.; 3/4 sharers; 6 months only at £60 p.w.—KAL 351 3351.

CHESHAM PLACE.—Charming comfortable 3 bed flat avail now; 4 wks. £150 p.w.—At Home in London Ltd. 01-581 2216.

WALPOLE ST., CHELSEA.—Delightful ground floor flat, 1 bedroom, recept. kit and bath. Avail 3-12 months; £70 p.w.—Plaza Est. 584 4372.

W.2.—Super house available for 6 mths.: 3 beds, 2 recept, K & 1½ B. C.H. C.H.W. Lovely garden. £130 p.w.—West Trend 262 6204.

EARLS CT.—Attractive s/c flat. Ideal 3 overseas visitors.—London Flats 373 5002.

PUTNEY.—Well furn. 1 bedroomed s/c flat. C.H. incl., £38. Also 2 bedroomed flat, £48.—London Flats 373 5002.

REGENTS PARK.—Out of this world ! 3 amazing mews houses, brand new: 3 beds, 2 recept. American kit. 3 baths. garage. Also massive 3 bed, 2 bath maisonette. All avail unfurn./furn.—Ouintoss 584 9175.

CHISWICK.—Spacious 3 rooms, K & B. Ideal overseas visitors. £35.—London Flats 373 5002.

FARNHAM, SURREY.—Spacious det. house; 4 bedrooms, 2 recept. K & B. C.H. Garage, garden. £40 p.w.—Church Bros. Reading 81163 or 01-439 7903.

MARBLE ARCH.—Academic offers to let ground floor of his elegant house to executive/professional man. Own bedroom and sitting room. Share k./b. £30 p.w.—Telephone 262 3320 after 10.00 a.m.

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KENSINGTON CHURCH ST. (near) mews flat, fully furnished double bedroom, reception, k. & b. C.H. £60 p.w. 229 2510.

FOUNDER of Educational Charity conscientious professionals wishing to be involved in a creative environment. Please telephone 235 0376.

MARYLEBONE HIGH ST. 3rd floor flat fully furnished, dble bedroom, reception, k. & b. £55 p.w. 229 2510.

HIGHGATE, cheerful flat, living-room, 2 beds etc. 2/4 persons from £45 p.w. for visitors. Holiday letting 340 9574 or 267 1311.

RENTALS

AROUND TOWN FLATS

120 HOLLAND PK AVE., W11

SHEPHERDS BUSH, W12. Very modern 1 bed., 2 recep. flat (pine floors, etc.). 3/6 months only. £45.
CHELSEA. SW3. Designer's pretty 3 room flat with ivy-filled patio. Top location. £55.
PUTNEY. SW15. Spacious first floor, 3 bed flat. All at highest standards. 3 months only. £70.
KNIGHTSBRIDGE. SW3. 3 room flat, seconds from Harrods. In block. Top value at £75 all inc.
CHELSEA. SW10. Immac. country house style 2 room flat. 3/5 months only for visitors. £75.
BARNES. SW13. Beautifully kept 2 bed. 2 recep. family house and garden near the river. 2/3 months only. £130.
KENSINGTON. W8. Super 4 bed, 2 bath modern town house with all conveniences. Lots of good pictures, books, rugs, etc. 5 months. £150.
CHELSEA. SW3. 3 bed, 2 bath maisonette, full of best French antiques in finest quality decor. 3/6 months. £175.

01-229 0033

CABBAN & GASELEE

E5 flat for 1/2 £17. W8 basement 1 bed £35. NW3 flat: 3 bed family/sharers £50. NW3 modern flat, 1 bed £60. SW1 3 rooms, k. & b, £110 inc. SW5 flat 3 rooms, k. & b. £115. Bucks detached house, 7 rooms, 2 bath, garage, garden £120. SW5 tasteful flat, 2 bed, 2 recep., 2 bath £130. SW3 Duplex 3 bed, 2 bath, four poster bed £175. SW3 modern mews: 4 bed., 2 bath., garage, £200. W1 duplex with spiral staircase, 3 bed, 3 bath about £300.

01-589 5481

Furnished house or flat

Wanted 3/4 months, from May for Senior partner, leading London professional firm. Minimum 3 beds.
Knightsbridge, Belgravia, Kensington area. Impeccable. Guarantees over care and possession.

Rent by agreement
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FOR SALE WANTED

ANTIQUE FURNITURE, clocks, oil paintings, jewellery and furs, wanted. 01-761 0875 or 274 4142 (evenings). M. A. Martin.

WANTED by personal collector, not dealer, cash paid for quality stamps. 624 8163 (day) 624 1133 eves. (weekends).

SCRAP GOLD, silver, Platinum and Jewellery wanted. Highest prices paid. Call or send reg. P.M.C., 37 Gt. Russell St., London, W.C.1. 01-637 1763/4.

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MICHAEL LIPITCH buys all antique furniture. Tel.: 352 4574.

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CHALLEN 4ft. 6in. Grand Piano, good condition. £500.—969 3883 after 6 p.m.

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(continued on page 24)

roadcasting

amonds, uranium and power politics are the staple diet of Richard Lindley's scinating report for Panorama (BBC1 8.10) on Namibia, the little-known part of uth West Africa, Leo Sayer Sings (BBC2 8.15) finds the diminutive pop star on p form and cinephile Barry Norman reports from Hollywood for Tonight (BBC1 .0) on the Academy Awards. Talent show Opportunity Knocks (ITV 6.45) cludes a ballet duo from Sussex and The World Table Tennis Championships BC2 10.45) move into their third day.—T.S.

3C 1

-7.55 am, Open University: delling a Gas; 7.05, Econom- The Multiplier; 7.30, Cogni- Maps. 12.45 pm, News. 0, Pebble Mill. 1.45-2.00, The mps. 3.15, Songs of Praise. 5, Play School. 4.20, Deputy wg. 4.25, Jackanory. 4.40, e Peter. 5.05, John Craven. 5, It's Our Turn ! 5.35, Padd- ton.
40 News; Nationwide.
50 Ask the Family.
15 Poldark: Part 13.
10 Panorama.
00 News.
25 Film: The Gang that Couldn't Shoot Straight, with Jerry Orbach, Leigh Taylor-Young, Robert de Niro.
00 Tonight.
40 Weather.
Black and white.

gional variations as BBC-1 ept: C WALES: 1.45-2.00 pm, Phil n. 5.55-6.20, Wales Today. 6.50- 5, Heddiw. 11.40, Weather. OTLAND: 5.55-6.20 pm, Report Scotland. 11.00, Public ount. 11.35, News. NORTHERN LAND: 3.53-3.55 pm, Northern land News. 5.55-6.20, Scene ound Six. 11.40, Weather.

BBC 2

6.40-7.55 am, Open University: Computing; 7.05, Woodland Decomposers; 7.30, Art and Environment. 11.00-11.25, Play School. 2.00 pm, World Table Tennis Championships. 4.55-7.00, Open University: Chemistry of Carbon Compounds; 5.45, Catch Your Mutant; 6.10, Foundation Maths; 6.35, Technology—Mechanics.
7.00-7.05, News.
7.30 Newsday.
7.45 Diary of a Village, part 6.
8.15 Leo Sayer.
9.00 The Lady of the Camellias, part 2.
9.50 The Age of Uncertainty, part 12: Democracy, Leadership, Commitment.
10.45 World Table Tennis Championships.
11.25 News.
11.35 Open Door.

Thames

9.30 am, Kimba. 9.55, Rainbow Country. 10.20, Cowboy in Africa. 11.10, Let Them Live. 11.35, Spiderman. 12.00, Jamie and the Magic Torch (New Series). 12.10 pm, Rainbow. 12.30, Drive-In. 1.00, News. 1.20, Today's Post. 1.30, Indoor League. 2.00, Good Afternoon. 2.25, Film: Mysterious Island, with Michael Craig, Joan Greenwood, Herbert Lom. 4.20, Clapperboard. 4.25, The Tomorrow People. 5.15, Batman.
5.45 News. Today.
6.45 Opportunity Knocks.
7.30 Coronation Street.
8.00 Selwyn Froggitt.
8.30 World in Action.
9.00 Charlie's Angels.
10.00 News at Ten.
10.30 Rising Damp.
11.00 Help !
11.05 People and Politics.
12.05 am, Close. Tina Heath reads "Godfacts" by Dick Williams.

ATV

10.30 am, Untamed World. 10.55, Earl "Father" Hines. 11.50, The Woozies. 12.00, Thames. 12.30 pm, David Niven. 1.00, Thames. 2.25, McCloud. 4.20, Thames. 5.15, Survival. 5.45, Thames. 10.30, Larry Grayson. 11.00, Platform for Today. 11.45, Wait Till Your Father Gets Home. 12.15 am, Douglas Jackson.

Southern

10.30 am, Sniper. 10.55, Battle of the Comics. 11.20, Nature of Things. 11.45, Oscar. 12.00, Thames. 12.30 pm, Survival. 1.00, Thames. 2.00, Houseparty. 2.30, McCloud. 4.20, Thames. 5.15, Popeye. 5.20, Crossroads. 5.45, Thames. 10.30, Special Branch. 11.30, Southern News Extra. 11.40, The Apocalypse. 11.45, Farm Progress. 12.10 am, Weather.

HTV

9.55 am, Hammy Hamster. 10.05, Wait Till Your Father Gets Home. 10.30, Sniper. 10.55, Battle of the Comics. 11.20, Afloat. 11.45, Oscar. 12.00, Thames. 12.30 pm, Horses in Our Blood. 1.00, Thames. 2.30, Film: 2.00, Out of Town. 2.30, Film: Only When I Larf. 4.20, Thames. 5.15, Breaktime 5. 5.20, Crossroads. 5.45, News. Report West. 6.22, Report Wales. 6.45, Thames. 10.35, The Savage West. 12.20 am, Weather. HTV CYMRU/WALES.—As HTV except: 1.20-1.25 pm, Penawdau Newyddion Y Dydd. 2.00-2.30, Hamdden. 4.20, Miri Mawr. 4.35-4.45, Wstibethna. 6.00-6.22, Y Dydd. 8.30-9.00, Yr Wythnos. 10.00-10.35, News at Ten. HTV WEST.—As HTV except: 1.20-1.30 pm, West Headlines. 6.22-6.45, Report West.

Granada

9.30 am, Sesame Street. 10.25, The Nature of Things. 11.20, Woody Woodpecker. 11.45, Table Tennis. 12.00, Thames. 12.30 pm, Kitchen Garden. 1.00, Thames. 2.25, Film: The Crimson Pirate, with Burt Lancaster. 4.20, Thames. 5.10, This Is Your Right. 5.15, Crossroads. 5.45, News. 6.45, Thames. 10.30, Phyllis. 11.00, Reports Politics. 11.30, The Collaborators.

Yorkshire

8.30 am, Good Morning Television (New Series). 9.30, Houseparty (New Series). 10.00, Journal. 10.10, Film: Invasion Quartet, with Bill Travers, Spike Milligan, John Le Mesurier. 11.45, Oscar (New Series). 12.00, Thames. 12.30 pm, Kitchen Garden. 1.00, Thames. 1.30, The Mary Tyler Moore Show. 2.00, Good Afternoon. 2.25, Film: Interlude, with Oskar Werner, Virginia Maskell, Donald Sutherland. 4.20, Thames. 5.15, University Challenge. 5.45, News. Calendar. 6.45, Thames. 10.30, Horses in Our Blood. 11.00, Film: Emergency, with Glyn Houston, Zena Walker.

estward

05 am, Hammy Hamster. 10.30, iper. 10.55, Battle of the Comics. 20, Afloat. 11.45, Oscar. 12.00, ames. 12.30 pm, Kitchen Garden. 00, Thames. 2.25, Film: What a y to Go, with Shirley MacLaine, ul Newman. 4.20, Thames. 5.15, oody Woodpecker. 5.45, News. 00, Westward Diary. 6.20, Sports sk. 6.45, Thames. 10.30, West untry Lives. 11.00, Westward ews. 11.05, Politics West. 11.30, reets of San Francisco. 12.25 am, ith for Life.

nglia

00 am, Inner Space. 10.30, iper. 10.55, Battle of the mics. 11.20, Afloat. 11.45, car. 12.00, Thames. 12.30 pm, tchen Garden. 1.00, Thames. 00, Houseparty. 2.25, Film. The raw Man with Dermot Walsh, Clif- rd Evans. 3.50, Birds of a ather. 4.20, The Romper Room. 45, Tomorrow People. 5.15, Run, ie Run. 5.45, News. About Anglia. 45, Thames. 10.30, Horses in Our ood. 11.00, Film: When Michael lls, with Ben Gazzara, Elizabeth shley. 12.20 am, Reflection.

order

30 am, Boldmoney. 9.40, Solden- 10.05, Woobinda. 10.30, niper. 10.55, Battle of the Comics. 1.20, Afloat. 11.45, Oscar. 12.00, hames. 12.30 pm, Kitchen Garden. .00, Thames. 2.00, Houseparty. .25, Film: The Art of Crime, with on Leibman. 3.50, The Addams amily. 4.20, Thames. 5.15, Super- onic. 5.45, News. Border News nd Lookaround. 6.15 Gernock ... 6.45, Thames. 10.30, Border arch. 11.30, Tandarra. 12.25 am, Border News Summary.

cottish

9.35 am, Survival Special. 10.30, Sniper. 10.55, Battle of the Comics. 11.20, Afloat. 11.45, Oscar. 12.00, Thames. 12.30 pm, Kitchen garden. 1.00, Thames. 2.00, Houseparty. 2.25, Beryl's Lot. 2.55, Marcus Welby. 3.50, Personal View. 4.20, Thames. 5.15, What's Your Problem ? 5.45, News: Scotland Today. 6.05, Crimedesk. 6.45, Thames. 10.30, New Celeste in Concert. 11.00, Late Call. 11.05, Rising Damp. 11.35, Man in a Suitcase.

Grampian

10.00 am, First Thing. 10.05, The Beachcombers. 10.30, Sniper. 10.55, Battle of the Comics. 11.20, Afloat. 11.45, Oscar. 12.00, Thames. 12.30 pm, Horses in Our Blood. 1.00, Thames. 2.25, Beryl's Lot. 2.55, Pathfinders. 3.50, The Silent Ones of the Land. 4.20, Thames. 5.15, Woobinda. 5.45, News: Grampian Today. 6.10, Top Club. 6.45, Thames. 10.30, Film: Psyche 59, with Patricia Neal, Curt Jurgens, Samantha Eggar. 11.50, Reflections.

Tyne Tees

8.30 am, Good Morning Television. 10.00, Survival. 10.30, Sniper. 10.55, Battle of the Comics. 11.20, Afloat. 11.45, Oscar. 12.00, Thames. 12.30 pm, On the Light Side. 1.00, Thames. 2.25, Film: Two Way Stretch, with Peter Sellers. 3.50, Noah's Animals. 4.20, Thames. 5.15, Lassie. 5.45, News: Northern Life. 6.40, Police Call. 6.45, Thames. 10.30, Horses in Our Blood. 11.00, Champions ! 11.30, Oscar Peterson. 12.00, Epilogue.

Ulster

10.30 am, Sniper. 10.55, Battle of the Comics. 11.20, Afloat. 11.45, Oscar. 12.00, Thames. 2.00 pm, See You Monday. 2.30, Film: Cattle Drive, with Joel McCrea, Dean Stockwell. 3.50, Woody Woodpecker. 4.20, Thames. 5.15, Garnock Way. 5.45, News: Ulster News. 6.05, The Mary Tyler Moore Show. 6.30, Reports. 6.45, Thames. 10.30, Monday Night. 10.35, Film: Who Killed Teddy Bear, with Juliet Prowse, Sal Mineo. 12.05 am, Bedtime.

Radio

1
6.00 am, News. Colin Berry.† 7.00, Simon Bates. 9.00, Tony Blackburn. 12.00, Paul Burnett. 2.02 pm, David Hamilton.† 4.30, DLT. 5.45, Newsbeat. 6.02, John Dunn.† 7.02, Movie Quiz. 7.30, Alan Dell. 9.02, Humph.† 10.02, Sport. 10.05, Star Sound. 11.02, Kid Jensen.†.
† Stereo.

2
6.00 am, As Radio 1. 7.02, Terry Wogan.† 9.02, Pete Murray.† (10.30, Waggoners' Walk.) 11.30, Jimmy Young.† 1.50 pm, Sport. 2.02, As Radio 1. 4.30, Waggoners' Walk. 4.47, John Dunn.† 6.45, Sport. 7.02, As Radio 1. 11.02, Don Durbridge.

3
6.55 am, Weather. News. 7.05, Mozart, Strauss.† 8.00, News. 8.05, Elgar, Holst, Vaughan Williams.† 9.00, News. 9.05, Brahms.† 9.45, Talking About Music.† 10.15, Szymanowski: Violin and piano recital.† 11.15, Concert, part 1: Haydn, Tavener.† 12.05 pm, In Short. 12.15, Concert, part 2: Debussy, Kodaly.† 1.00, News. 1.05, Bach, Schubert, Mussorgsky, Hindemith.† 2.05, Matinee Musicale.† 3.05, Organ and flute recital: Stanley, Martin.† 3.35, Mozart, Grieg, Tchaikovsky.† 4.55, Bandstand.† 5.25, Ahrah's Music Box.
5.45, Homeward Bound. 6.05, News. 6.10, Homeward Bound. 6.30, Lifelines. Get By in German, part 4. Getting Food and Drink: 7.00, Get By in Spanish, part 1. Getting a Drink. 7.30, Jennifer Smith. Song recital: de Vasconcellos, Poulenc.† 8.10, The Secular Society, part 4: Secularization and the Social Context. 8.30, Beethoven Concert from Saarbrucken, part 1. 9.30, The Lucifer of the Left. New biography of Ramsay MacDonald, talk. 9.50, Concert, part 2: Beethoven. 10.35, Christopher and his kind. Christopher Isherwood talks to Paul Bailey. 11.15, Villa-Lobos guitar recital.† 11.25, News.

4
6.20 am, News; Farming Week. 6.40, Prayer for the Day. 6.45, Today. 8.45, John Ebdon. 9.00, News. 9.05, Start the Week. 9.55, National Gardens Scheme. 10.00, News. 10.05, Wildlife. 10.30, Service. 10.45, Story: Next Stop—Bod. 11.00, News. 11.05, Any Questions ? 12.00, News. 12.02 pm, You and Yours. 12.27, Desert Island Discs. 12.55, Weather. 1.00, The World at One. 1.30, The Archers. 1.45, Woman's Hour. 2.45, Listen with Mother. 3.00, News. 3.05, Play: The Watching Eye.† 4.35, Story (new series): "Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. 5.00, PM Reports. 5.50, Financial Report; Weather. 6.00, News. 6.15, The Better Half. Broadcasting. 6.45, The Archers. 7.00, News. 7.05, The World in Focus. 7.30, Virtuoso: Benny Goodman.† 8.00, Play: A Reasonable Percentage.† 9.30, Kaleidoscope. 10.00, World Tonight. 10.45, A Book at Bedtime: "Joseph and the Goths", part 9. 11.00, Financial World. 11.15, Today in Parliament. 11.30, News. 11.51-11.54, Inshore forecast.

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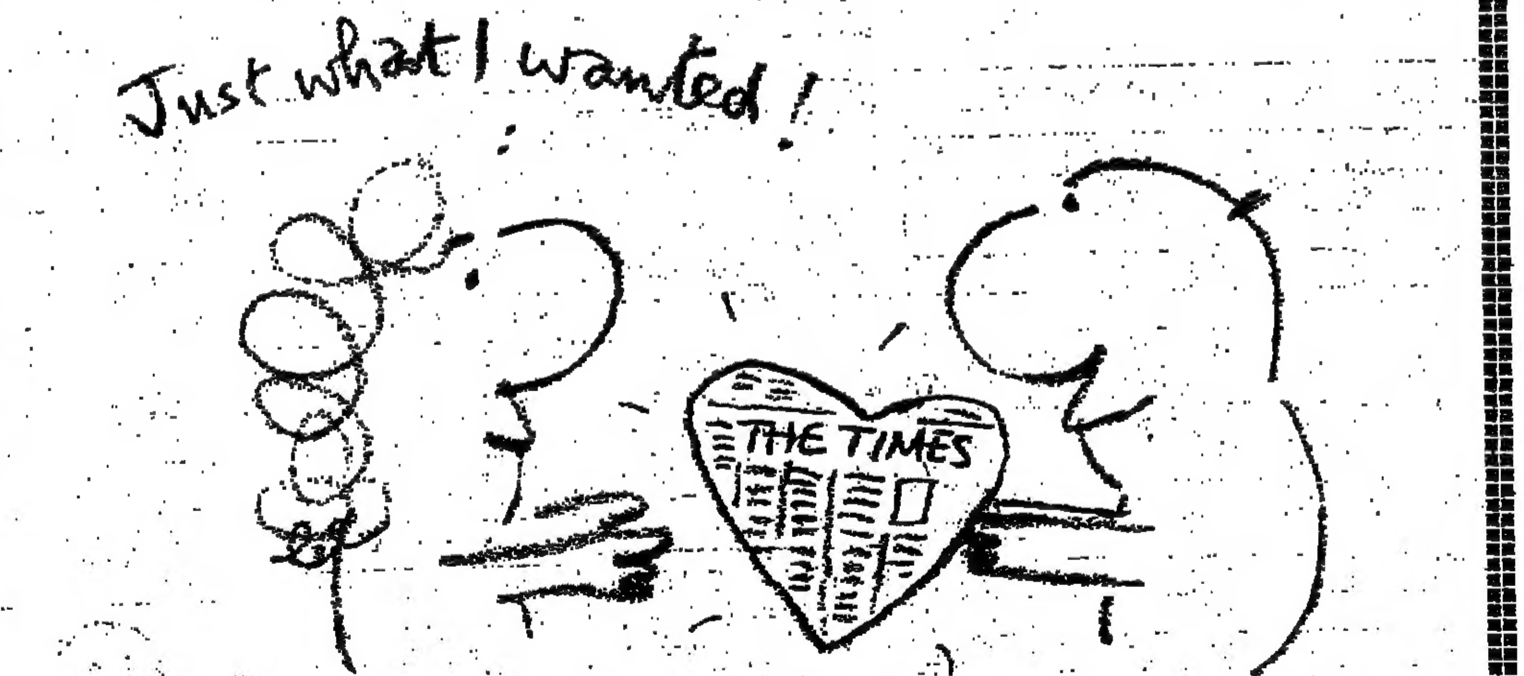

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". . . I have seen his ways, and will heal him: I will lead him also, and restore comforts unto him."—Isaiah 57: 18.

BIRTHS

CHASSER.—On March 26th, at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, to Sheila and Brian—a daughter, Eleanor Alison.

FLETT.—On March 26th, to Ann (nee Shillito) and Magnus—a daughter, Susanna Mary Jean, sister for Peter, Katy and Alistair.

HARDING.—On 24th March, to Sharon and Alan—a son (Nicholas James Hope).

HARWOOD.—On 25th March, at Birmingham Maternity Hospital, to Primmy (nee Mallinson) and Robert—a daughter. Sister for Jessica and Felicity.

HEPBURNE SCOTT.—On March 27th, at Aberdeen Maternity Hospital, to Christian and James—a daughter.

NEILSON.—On Wednesday, March 23rd at The Westminster Hospital, to Claire (nee Brooke-Hunt) and Alistair—a daughter.

ROBINSON.—On March 26th, 1977, at Dulwich Hospital, to Diana (nee Lyons) and Norman—a son, Thomas Lancelot, a brother for Juliet.

ROSENBLOOM.—On March 23rd, 1977, to Jacqueline and Lewis, at Liverpool Maternity Hospital—a daughter (Abigail). A sister to Toby.

SHANKS.—On March 24th, at Queen Mother's Hospital, Glasgow, to Philippa and Gavin—a daughter (Claire). A sister for Alistair.

TOLHURST.—On March 27th, to Sonia (nee Messenger) and David Tolhurst, of Rozenburglaan 28, Rotterdam 3016—a daughter, Charlotte.

WEBSTER-GARDINER.—On March 26th, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Angela (nee Rochefort) and Graham—a daughter (Sarah Louise).

WOODROW.—On March 25th, 1977, in Jersey, to Fiona (nee Dawson) and Charles Woodrow—a daughter.

BIRTHDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Jen, l.m.y.l.r.—Love Graham and Fiona.

MARRIAGES

DESPREZ : HUMPHERY.—On 26th March, 1977, at St. Andrew's Church, Kingswood, Alain Gaetan Desprez to Claire Pela Humphery.

MONEAGLE : ROLLAND.—On 26th March at St. Paul's Church, Hounslow, John Moneagle, 1st Batt. Scots Guards, Chelsea Barracks to Deborah Ann Rolland of 365 Bath Road, Hounslow West.

SILVER WEDDING

SHAWE : HODGSON.—On 29th March, 1952, at Purley Congregational Church, Gerard David Horace Shawe, to Jill Thornbery-Hodgson. Now at Patterdale, Peaks Hill, Purley, Surrey.

RUBY WEDDING

HENDER : HALL.—On March 27th, 1937, at the Parish Church of Chaldon Surrey, Victor Charles Hender to Madge Mary Hall. Present address: Westcroft, Blackdown Avenue, Woking, Surrey.

DEATHS

ALLHUSEN.—On 25th March, peacefully, at Meerhay Cottage, in his 81st year, after a long illness, bravely borne, Desmond, late 60th Rifles, loved and loving husband of Avril. Private cremation. Family flowers only but donations if wished to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

BACKHOUSE.—On March 23rd, 1977, suddenly, Margaret Ann Backhouse, aged 89 years of Flat 1, 12 Dartford Road, Sevenoaks, Kent. Funeral service at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on Wednesday, March 30th at 2.30 p.m. No flowers, please.

BOND.—On 23rd March, suddenly and peacefully at home near Cambridge, David Evelyn Bond, beloved husband of Billie Josephine and father of Geoffrey, Michael, Stephen and Peter. Founder, builder and inspiration of Management Aviation Limited. Funeral at St Andrew's Church, Histon, at 1 p.m., Tuesday, 29th March. Flowers to H. Williams & Son Ltd., 7 Victoria Park, Cambridge.

BRERETON.—On 25th March, 1977, at Jaffray Hospital, Birmingham, Frances Henrietta Maude, aged 71 years, daughter of the late Rev and Mrs P. L. Brereton. Service and interment Little Massingham Parish Church, near King's Lynn, Wed., 30th March, at 3.30 p.m. Flowers to Church, please.

COOKE.—On March 25th at Kelling Hospital, Holt, Norfolk, Major General Sidney Arthur (Sam) Cooke, CB, OBE, retired, of Grove Lane, Holt, brother of Arthur (Australia) and Frederick, and Mrs John Anderson (Matt). Aged 73 years. Cremation St Faiths, Norwich, Wednesday, March 30th, at 2.30 pm. Cut flowers only to Lloyd Durham, High Kelling, Holt, by 12 noon please. Memorial service details to be announced later.

COUSINS.—On March 25, at his home in Wimbledon, William George, M.B.E., C.Eng., M.I.E.E., C.P.A., aged 74, peacefully, in his sleep, much loved husband of Rose and father of Basil, Ida and Edward. Funeral at Church of Sacred Heart, Wimbledon, on Thursday, March 31st, at 10 a.m., followed by cremation.

CRATHORNE, THOMAS LIONEL.—Baron Crathorne, on March 26th, peacefully, at home in his 80th year. Funeral service at All Saints, Crathorne, on Wednesday, March 30th, at 3 p.m. Memorial service in London to be announced later.

CUNNINGHAM-REID.—On the 26th March, 1977, Alec Stratford, beloved husband of Helene and father of Michael, Noel, John and Robby. Funeral private.

DARLOT.—On 25th March, 1977, Jenna Wingfield, of 42 Upper Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, widow of Leonard Darlot, of Perth, Western Australia, in her 93rd year. Funeral private. Enquiries to J. H. Kenyon Ltd., 49 Edgware Road, W.2. Tel. 723 3277.

FIRMAN-EDWARDS.—On 26th March, suddenly at home, 44 Melville Street, Ryde, Isle of Wight, Lugdon Firman-Edwards, MD, Cantab, MRCP London, JP, aged 75 years. Beloved husband of Hilly and father of Ruth Foster. Funeral at crematorium, 12.30, Wednesday, 30th March.

FITZGERALD.—On 26th March, suddenly at Graythwaite, James William Broun, beloved husband of Isabelle and loving father of Caroline, John and Hugh and also much loved grandfather. Funeral Sacred Heart, Coniston, Wednesday, 30th March, 11 a.m. Family flowers only.

FRY.—On March 25th, 1977, peacefully at his home, little Winsors, Membury, near Axminster, Lt.-Col. Cliffe Meaburn Fry, M.C. (Retd.), late Royal West Kent Regiment, dear husband of Peggy. Funeral service Exeter and Devon Crematorium tomorrow, Tuesday, at 11.30 a.m. Donations, if desired, to Supt. D. C. Hellier, 16 Lorretto Road, Axminster, for St. John Ambulance Brigade.

HAYDEN.—On Wednesday, March 23rd, peacefully at Southmoor House, Oxon, Maisie Scott, dear wife of the late Henry Arthur Hayden and mother of John, Josephine and Elizabeth. Service of remembrance at Childrey near Wantage, on April 24th.

LEACROFT.—On 22nd March, 1977, at her home, 65 Queen's Court, Clifton, Bristol, Gladys (nee Cuddon), beloved wife of the late Group Captain John Leacroft, M.C. and Bar, R.A.F., and dearly loved mother of Diana Hopcroft. Requiem Mass St Peter and St Paul Cathedral, Tuesday, 29th March, at 9 a.m., followed by interment at Whitchurch Cemetery. Family cut flowers only.

LEVY.—On March 23, peacefully, at her home, Elmcroft, Marlow, Mary Louisa, aged 105, widow of Dr Alfred Goodman Levy and mother of Elsie, Ricardo, Bernard, Ruth and Hugh.

LUKER.—On March 25th, 1977, at The Royal Masonic Hospital, Charles Thomas Luker, aged 70, darling husband of Audrey, beloved dad of John and Sally, and a dear grampa. Funeral, St. Mary's Church, Henley-on-Thames, Thursday, March 31st, at 2.30 p.m., followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, please.

MITCHELL.—On March 25, 1977, peacefully, Edith Mary Mitchell, of 16 Bury Hall Lane, Alverstoke, widow of Seymour Mitchell, M.B.E., and mother of Betsy and Tony.

QUEKETT.—On March 26th, 1977, suddenly in Coleraine Hospital, Captain Charles Edwin Quekett (late XI Hussars (P.A.O.)), Freeman of the City of London (of Kilcranny Coleraine), beloved husband of Anne, dearest father of Charles and Stella, youngest son of the late Sir Arthur and Lady Quekett. Funeral private. Enquiries 026563 318. "He was a verray parfit gentil knight."

RASCH.—On 25th March, 1977, Phyllis, beloved wife of the late Brigadier Guy Rasch. Cremation private. Service at All Saints Church, Middle Woodford, Salisbury, at 3 p.m. on Thursday, 31st March. Flowers to the church.

SANGSTER.—On 26th March, peacefully at home, Jack, aged 80, dearly loved husband of Margery and father of Heather. Cremation private. Family flowers only. Memorial service to be announced.

SCOTCHMAN.—On the 26th March, Percy Vivian, aged 77, at his home, 41 Portway, Frome, Somerset. Funeral service at St. John's Church, Frome, on Thursday, 31st March, at 12 noon. Family flowers only by request but donations to St. John's Church, may be sent to W. Adlam & Son, 70 Locks Hill, Frome.

SMITHELLS.—On March 25th, suddenly, Colin James Smithells, M.C., D.Sc., F.I.M., aged 84, beloved husband of Mary. Funeral 3.15 p.m., Thursday, 31st March, at Chalfont St. Peter Parish Church. Flowers to Grimstead, Monteilo Hse., Larter's Green Lane, Chalfont St. Peter.

STONEHAM.—On the 26th March, 1977, peacefully at home, Ben, aged 65, of 305 Forest Road, Tunbridge Wells, beloved husband of Beryl and father of Sybil, John and Benjamin. Funeral service in the Church of St. Alban, Frant, on Wednesday, 30th March at 10.30 a.m., followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, but if desired, donations to the British Heart Foundation.

WYE.—On Saturday, 26th March, 1977, suddenly in the garden at his home, The Lower Gatehouse, Denton, Northants, Francis Thomas Eric Wye, aged 63, deeply loved husband of Tyd and dear father of Rod, Deb and Harriet. Funeral private. Memorial service to be announced later.

IN MEMORIAM

H.M.S. JAGUAR.—Middle Watch, March 27, 1942. In proud memory of her service and of all who served in her.—D.H.F.

McLAUGHLIN.—In memory of Lieut. Col H. J. McLaughlin, D.S.O., late fifth Royal Irish Lancers, 28th March, 1915 and his widow, Winifred Hawthorn, 29th Sept., 1963.

ST. NAZAIRE.—In proud and grateful memory of those Officers and Men of the Royal Navy and Commandos who gave their lives in the action at St. Nazaire on March 28, 1942.—From the St. Nazaire Society.

MAYES.—In loving and happy memory of Hilary, always, but especially on her birthday, 27th March. Greatly missed by An, "Ernest" (Stanley), Daphne, David, Celia, John, Dot and little Rebecca, as well as by her many friends.

SOMMER, DUDLEY.—March 28th, most lovingly remembered today and always.—Ruth.

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(continued on page 23)

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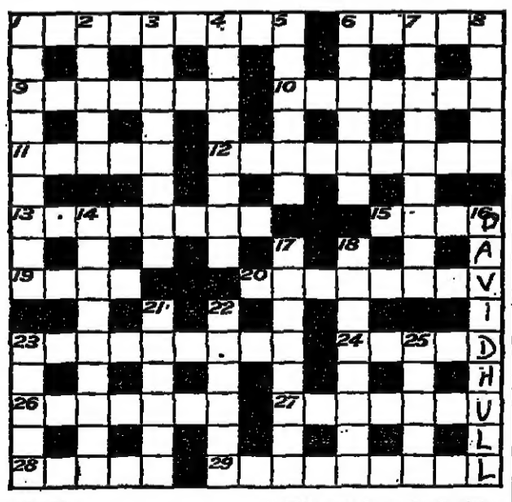
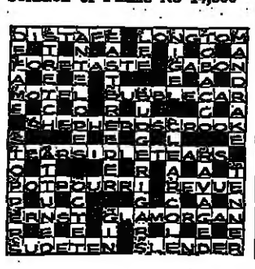
The Times Crossword Puzzle No 14,561



ACROSS
1 Sir Roger's friend, the fellow in the tournament (9).
6 Some air of strain ? (5).
9 Drink ? Then be the passenger in one (7).
10 Old arms for use in another world (7).
11 Desert was connected with Lawrence, initially (5).
12 Phone members by river, giving hospitality to all (4, 5).
13 In news agency, men noted for lack of spirit (8).
15 A deal in bananas ? (4).
19 Some poor Italian girl, in short ? (4).
20 Bloomer would alarm the form-filler, perhaps (8).
23 5 of the features in Polar exploration ? (5-4).
24 Sound church leader meets archbishop (5).
26 Feeling could be mine too (7).
27 So hard to enter Princess Ida's castle ? (7).
28 They are like tracts (5).
29 Flowers, of course, and similar things (5-4).

DOWN
1 Good-for-nothing put Tyler in the lake (9).
2 Originator of the golden handshake ? (5).
3 Supporters of Holy Writ (8).
4 Some dour sort of animal ? (8).
5 This one is a naval officer (6).
6 Speakers take in courses also (6).
7 Wonder if the pike rises in a flood ? (9).
8 Social class of players, say (5).
14 It gives time for notes (9).
16 Representatives of football crowd in Leeds, perhaps (9).
17 Bomb-proof shelter for 8, including oriental scholar (8).
18 [illegible]ing a swan-song ? (8).
21 One interstellar flight (6).
22 Food for six joiners (6).
23 French journalist, a girl (5).
25 Knowing of a Herts town assembly (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 14,560



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